

THE QUARTERLY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES
IN PALESTINE

VOL. XII. NOS. 3-4

JERUSALEM
PUBLISHED FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
PALESTINE BY GEOFFREY CUMBERLEGE
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
LONDON, E.C. 4

1946

CONTENTS

A CHALCOLITHIC NECROPOLIS AT BENEI BERAQ. BY J. ORY	<i>page</i> 43
A NABATAEAN TOMB AT 'AMMAN. BY LANKESTER HARDING	„ 58
SOME EIGHTH-CENTURY CAPITALS FROM AL MUWAQQAR. BY R. W. HAMILTON	„ 63
AN EIGHTH-CENTURY WATER-GAUGE AT AL MUWAQQAR. BY R. W. HAMILTON	„ 70
NOTE ON THE INSCRIPTION FROM AL MUWAQ- QAR. BY L. A. MAYER	„ 73
NOTE ON A ROMANESQUE RELIEF FROM JERU- SALEM. BY E. HENSCHER-SIMON	„ 75
A HEBREW SEAL FROM SAMARIA. BY I. BEN-DOR	„ 77
NEWLY DISCOVERED LATIN AND GREEK INSCRIP- TIONS. BY M. AVI-YONAH	„ 84
EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE AND TRANS-JOR- DAN, 1940-2	„ 103
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN, 1942-4	„ 107

A CHALCOLITHIC NECROPOLIS AT BENEI BERAQ

THE presence of a Chalcolithic necropolis in a scarped ridge of solidified sand (*kurkar*) at the eastern outskirts of Benei Beraq was reported in 1942 through the Local Council and residents at Benei Beraq.¹ On inspection, the existence of ancient graves was at once confirmed by broken ossuaries and pottery exposed in the face of the scarp or scattered about the site.

It became evident that considerable damage had already been done by quarrying for *kurkar* and sand, then in great demand for the construction of military camps in the neighbourhood. Some of the remains were also in imminent danger of being swept away by heavy rains. It was therefore expedient to make a record of what was left, before all traces of these early remains disappeared altogether.

Examination of the scarp resulted in the identification of twelve loci, containing pottery and flints. They were marked *A* to *L* on the plan (Fig. 1, p. 44).

The area of the necropolis appears to be confined to the northern slope of a ridge lying to the south of the present Jaffa-Haifa road, some 7 kilometres east of Tel-Aviv. The top of the ridge commands a view of the 'Auja basin and, beyond, of the Sharon plain.

The ridge (Pl. XV, 1) is composed of solidified sand, the upper strata of which slope upwards from east to west, and overlies a horizontal stratum of loose sand.² At two points the upper strata seem to have been quarried away at a remote period (as also recently) and the spoil of this process, deposited at the foot of the ridge, has formed spurs or terraces of disordered *kurkar* mingled with fragments of the original strata in position. Such spurs overlie the horizontal sand stratum and project towards the north. This secondary formation has also been quarried or eroded away, forming yet a lower and more recent terrace on the north. The ossuaries and pottery were to be seen both in the exposed section of the original tilted strata (Pls. XV, 4, and XVI, 1) above and in the intermediate terrace. They were not observed in the latest terrace of all at the base of the ridge, where the road is marked in the proposed town-planning scheme. It follows that the burials took place after the formation of the first terrace. Two kinds of sand formation had, therefore, to be excavated, viz. the tilted strata and the terrace of the secondary formation; the latter being only partially solidified (Pl. XV, 1).

At the west end of the top scarp the hill had been quarried back recently to a considerable depth and a cliff some 10 metres high was exposed. 2-3 metres from the top of this cliff were ossuaries and pottery *in situ* in pockets of loose sand adhering to the cliff face (loci *A*, *B*). Such pockets appear to represent the filling of shaft tombs cut down vertically in the original tilted sand strata.

Locus A is a low chamber or cavity visible in the cliff face a little less than 2 metres from the top. More than half of it appears to have been quarried away recently. Access to the chamber seems to have been from above, where the discontinuity of the tilted strata

¹ I have to thank Dr. Regensburger who brought for inspection some painted sherds collected by him from the site.

² Blake, *The Stratigraphy of Palestine and its Building Stones*, pp. 9 ff.

indicates the existence of a shaft (Pl. XVI, 1). Both chamber and shaft were filled to the top with loose sand and rubble. The maximum width of the chamber was 3 m. 50, measured at the exposed section of the cliff. It had an uneven floor slightly sunken in the middle and stepping up about 30 cm. at the west side so as to form a ledge wide

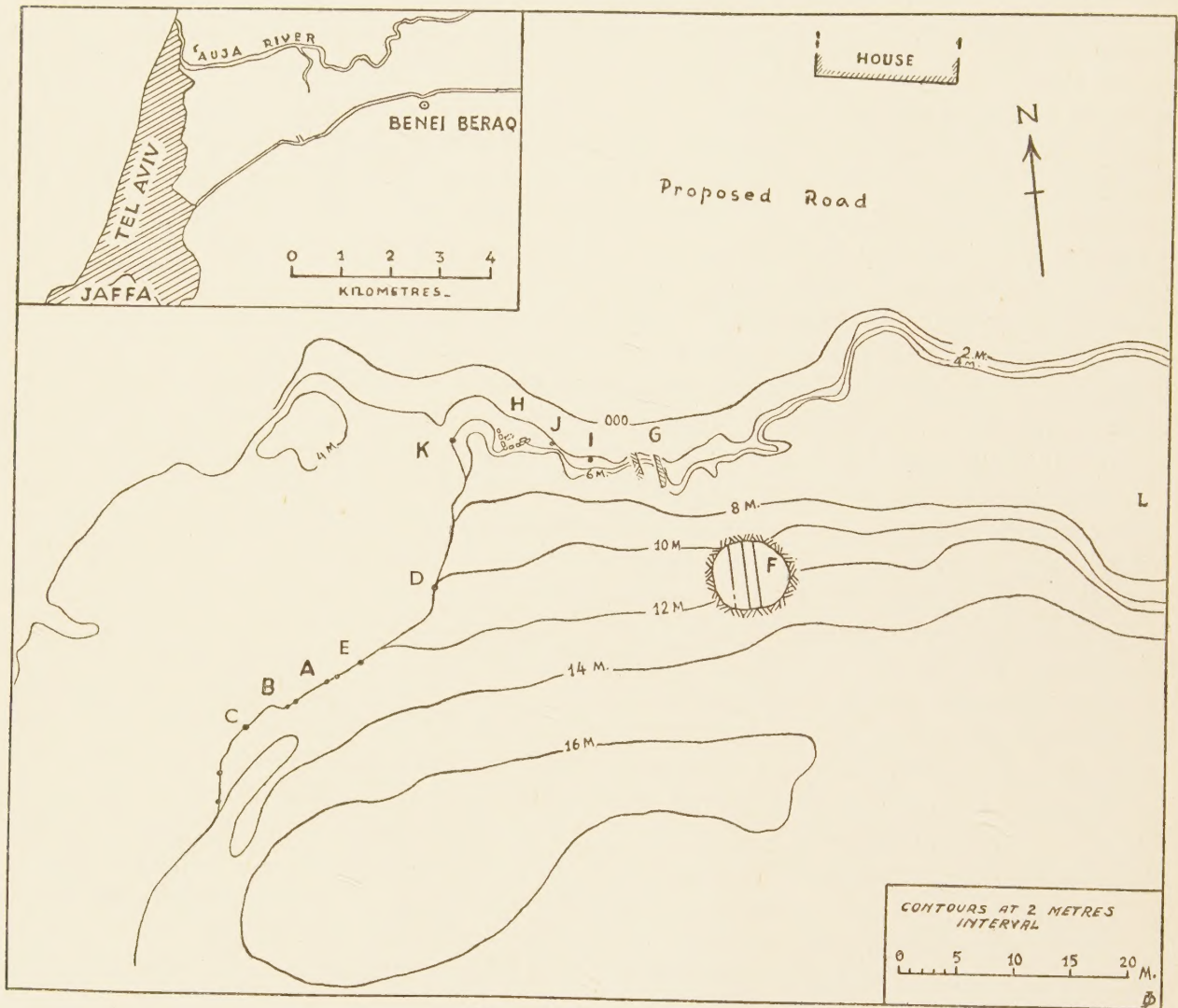


FIG. 1. Plan of site
(Inset showing position of Benei Beraq)

enough to accommodate an ossuary placed lengthwise. Owing to the high position of the chamber in the cliff and the friability of the sand, we feared a landslide and therefore left unexcavated a small portion of the filling at the inner side of the chamber. This seemed to contain more fragments of pots, but obviously no remains of ossuaries. One ossuary in a broken state was *in situ* at the east side of the chamber (Pl. XVI, 2). It was removed in fragments and later restored (Pl. XVIII, 2). The greater part of the roof, portions of the long walls, and most of the short end walls were missing. The

F ↓ G ↓ H ↓ K ↓ A-E



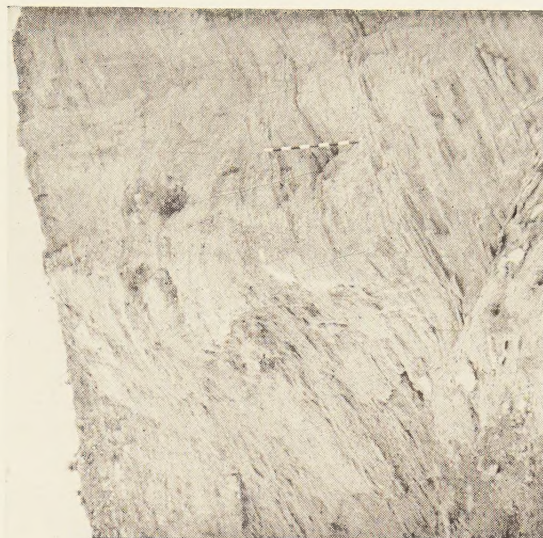
1. Panoramic view of the site from the north



2. Locus G



3. Locus H

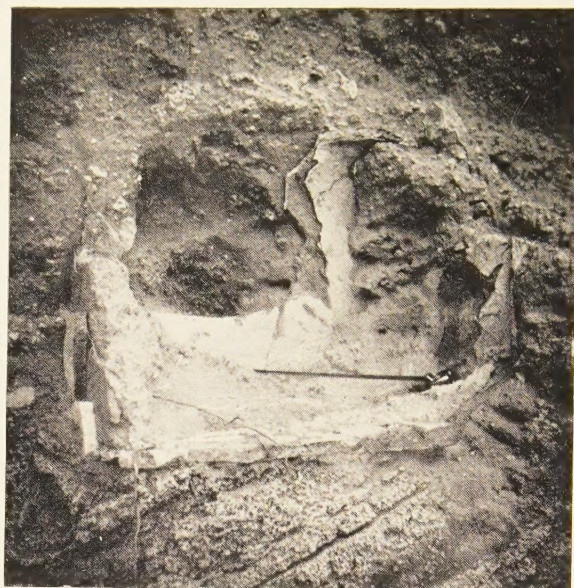


4. Locus B

CHALCOLITHIC NECROPOLIS AT BENEI BERAQ



1. Locus A



2. Ossuary *in situ*, Locus A



3. Pottery fragments, mainly from Locus F. No. 7 is from G
CHALCOLITHIC NECROPOLIS AT BENEI BERAQ

fragments of two more ossuaries were identified and extracted from the middle of the floor. Little was preserved of a fourth box originally seen at the west side of the chamber. Behind it, at the same side, was discovered another fragmentary specimen, which was partially restored. Another ossuary recovered from the spoil heap below the chamber evidently belongs here also. There was some fragmentary pottery in this room. Both pottery and ossuaries were encrusted with a limy deposit.

Locus B was in a small projecting bluff in the scarp face close to *A* (Pl. XV, 4). The original cutting may have been bottle-shaped and there remains just a portion of the bulge showing in section. Its maximum width at the floor as exposed in the scarp face was 3 m. and its height in the middle about 1 m. 85. Access to this chamber may have been from above through a shaft, as in *A*, but the fault in the rock now visible above the locus is no more than an offset in the rock, and not a shaft. Any shaft that may have existed has been quarried away. The filling in the chamber consisted of mixed red and yellow soil and lumps of *kurkar*. The chamber contained painted fragments of a crushed ossuary, pieces of which were found scattered across the whole width of the chamber. More painted fragments were recovered from the spoil heap at the base of the scarp; no other part of the cemetery has so far yielded any painted pottery.

Locus C; situated 5 metres to the west of *B* at the turn of the scarp about half-way up its face. Fragments of ossuaries and potsherds were visible in the sand filling of a chamber eroded away in greater part; the chamber was not cleared.

Locus D. The corner fragment of the base of an ossuary and some potsherds were visible at the base of the scarp, but it was impossible to make out the form of the grave containing them. The locus was not cleared.

Locus E marks the site of a cave quarried away in greater part. It was alleged by labourers who had quarried there previously that many pots were found by them lying on the floor of the cave and are probably still buried beneath the spoil.

Loci F and G were situated in the two upper terraces some distance east of the quarry which contains the deposits just described. They are for convenience described below out of their serial order (pp. 46 ff.).

Locus H is part of a stone-lined chamber, one corner of which has been preserved; the floor was paved with sandstone flags and the walls lined with a single row of similar flags set on edge (Pl. XV, 3). (Compare a similar structure described as a grain-pit at Ras el-'Ain in *QDAP*, VI, Pl. XXVII, 1, which is, however, of Early Bronze Age date.) The greater part of the chamber has been quarried or eroded away. The surviving corner contained the stone receptacle Fig. 5 on p. 57. A smaller clay ossuary was found at the south-east end of the chamber resting on an extra flagstone which had been placed on the pavement. Beside it lay a fragmentary juglet. This ossuary was found full of sand and some very fragmentary and disintegrated chips of bone. The stone receptacle also contained decayed human bones. The remains of the pavements and the ossuaries were found covered with clean loose sand. This loose sand cover evidently represents the original cover of the pit after burial was effected, as may be inferred from the fact that the adjacent section of the filling contains no such sand and consists of disordered *kurkar* mixed with dark hard soil.

Locus I. A single fragmentary jar was noted in the face of the scarp here, between *G* and *H*. It may once have formed part of the contents of a pit, since it lies on roughly the same level as the other remains in this part of the site; but no other objects are visible.

Locus J. Fragments of pottery and part of a clay ossuary in a grey ware were visible in the face of the scarp to the east of *H*. These probably represent the remains of another pit eroded away in its greater part. It was not cleared.

Locus K. Traces of small rubble built in red earth were visible in the scarp. The remains resembled the rubble structure at *G*, which is described below (p. 47 f.). The locus is situated to the west of *H*.

Locus L. Fragments of ossuaries were visible at the edge of a terrace recently formed by quarrying, *c.* 50 metres to the east of *F*. Though possibly the site of another pit, the locus was not cleared.

Locus F was situated on the upper terrace from 4 to 6 metres below the crest of the ridge. At the narrow part of the terrace (Plan, Fig. 1, p. 44) where the scarp is broken away a mass of crushed pottery was visible in the section. The nature of this locus was a puzzle, as, although it lay in the middle of the necropolis area, it showed no trace of any burial remains. In order to test the nature of the deposit it was decided to cut a trial trench through it. As a preliminary to this, a shallow layer of soil which covered the surface of the *kurkar* was removed. This enabled us to distinguish the limits of the depression in which the pottery had been deposited. It proved to be a roughly circular pit excavated in the *kurkar* and measuring *c.* 7 metres from east to west and 6 metres north to south. The southern side was partly sheltered by a slight overhang of the rock. The pit could be seen to be fully stacked with broken pottery.

A strip 2 metres wide was marked off across the middle of the area and excavated to a depth of about half a metre. The sand and soil was removed from the pottery bit by bit by means of brushes and mason's trowels. The work was slow and laborious, but so closely were the deposits crushed together and so completely their fabric softened by the infiltration of water that it was found impossible to disengage a single whole vessel. Nevertheless, it was possible to draw some conclusions as to the character of the deposit.

The deposit consisted largely of pots and dishes which had been packed inside one another and stacked together in a heap. In some cases as many as eight rims of dishes could be seen sticking together. The whole mass was hopelessly crushed and mingled with sand and pebbles.

After the first half-metre had been cleared, the width of the trench was reduced by half and so carried down to the rock. The pottery deposits were continuous throughout the trench. Towards the middle of the pit, and markedly near the floor and inside the sheltered area, traces of an intense fire were observed. The soil and small stones at this place were found completely blackened and the pottery either black or reddened by the fire.

The pottery as a whole, where not burnt, was encrusted with a limy deposit. Beside the bowls and dishes there were a number of pots with flat bottoms and plain rims (Fig. 2, p. 50), the height of some of them being about double the diameter of the base. None of these were found intact. It is noteworthy that a few fragments were found

which clearly belonged to ossuaries. The breaks in all these fragments were ancient, and the fragments were too few to suggest that any whole ossuary had ever been present. Although we have succeeded in completing only one whole pot from the fragments recovered, it is not to be supposed that the deposit originally consisted of incomplete vessels. On the contrary, the evident packing of the bowls inside each other, of which there could be no mistake, seems clear evidence that they were complete when deposited. The failure to reassemble whole specimens resulted rather from the complete disintegration of the fabric of the pots and especially from the multiplicity of identical forms and wares.

In addition to the pottery a comparatively large number of flint tools were found distributed amongst the pots in the course of the clearance.

The evidence of this sounding seems to suggest the existence of a primitive form of kiln in which pots of a simple type were stacked for firing. The flints may then possibly have served for the cutting or moulding of the clay or for some other purpose directly connected with the work.

If this interpretation is correct, the presence of a pottery kiln in the necropolis area implies the existence of a settlement, perhaps a transitory one, in the close neighbourhood. On top of the ridge, some 200 metres south-east of the kiln, a number of flint chips have been picked up at various places (see p. 54). Erosion and the excavation of trenches during the war of 1914-18 have practically obliterated all material traces of a settlement, but it seems possible that the flints indicate the region in which it may once have stood.

Locus G (Pl. XV, 2) is situated in the scarp below the intermediate terrace. In the section exposed by the quarrying or falling away of a portion of the terrace at this locus there were visible the bottom corner of an ossuary and some pot fragments surrounded by red earth and lumps of *kurkar*.

The formation of the sand here was irregular. As mentioned on p. 43 above, the intermediate terrace appears to consist largely of the fractured and fallen debris of the original stratified *kurkar*, which is still visible above the terrace and most notably in the modern quarry to the west. Although an ancient formation, and to a certain extent solidified, no consistent stratification could be clearly distinguished in this debris, which here formed a layer of varying thickness averaging about 2 metres. It rested, however, on a clearly defined horizontal stratum of soft dark sand. The various burial remains, viz. loci *G-Ź*, lay about 20-30 cm. above this stratum.

The problem facing the excavator at *G* was to distinguish between the somewhat discontinuous and disturbed *kurkar* forming the terrace itself and the man-made local disturbance associated with the pottery.

The scarp at this point formed a small irregular promontory jutting out from the upper terrace. At the east side a patch of small rubble mixed with sticky red soil or sand was clearly distinguishable from the friable and yellowish *kurkar* lumps which formed the bulk of the exposed section.

To the east of the red patch the scarp receded and the sand was generally soft and fragmentary. Directly above the patch lumps of *kurkar*, slanting down from west to

east, seemed to represent a survival of the original stratification. Similar slabs of *kurkar*, rather more sharply tilted, were visible at the west side of the knoll about 1 m. 60 to the west of the rubble patch. Below and to the east other slabs of *kurkar* debris seemed to have subsided onto a deposit of pottery, the fragments of which were visible in the section, mixed with sand and *kurkar* in a confused mass which abutted on the foot of the rubble and red soil.

Owing to the steepness of the scarp and the precarious poise of the knoll the excavation had to be handled with some caution. Accordingly, a cutting was made parallel to and behind the scarp at a distance of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres from the front. The dangerous crest of the scarp was then removed piecemeal from behind without risk of a landslide.

The bulk of the formation thus removed proved to consist of largish slabs of *kurkar*, tilted, like those originally seen in the section, from west to east, and overlying each other with intervening layers of sand. At the southern side of the cutting this formation proved to be about 2 m. 50 thick.

The bottom of the *kurkar* was composed of a somewhat less sharply tilted stratum averaging 25 cm. thick, which rested directly on a layer of unconsolidated sand tapering upwards to the west and thickening to about one metre depth on the east. It was in this sand layer that the pottery was deposited.

The red patch visible in the original section proved to be the end of a wall about 40 cm. thick and 1 m. 10 high at the highest point preserved. It ran in at right angles to the plane of the scarp and bordered on the east the pottery-bearing layer of sand. It was noted that some of the pottery was deposited near the bottom of this layer and rested close against the wall at the east side of the section.

These facts suggested that the wall was built as a screen to close up the east end of a crevice or shelter in which the pottery had been deposited. The sandy layer continued southwards beyond the inner limit of our excavation. In view of the apparently diminishing thickness and of the precarious nature of overlying *kurkar*, it was decided not to pursue the excavation to the south.

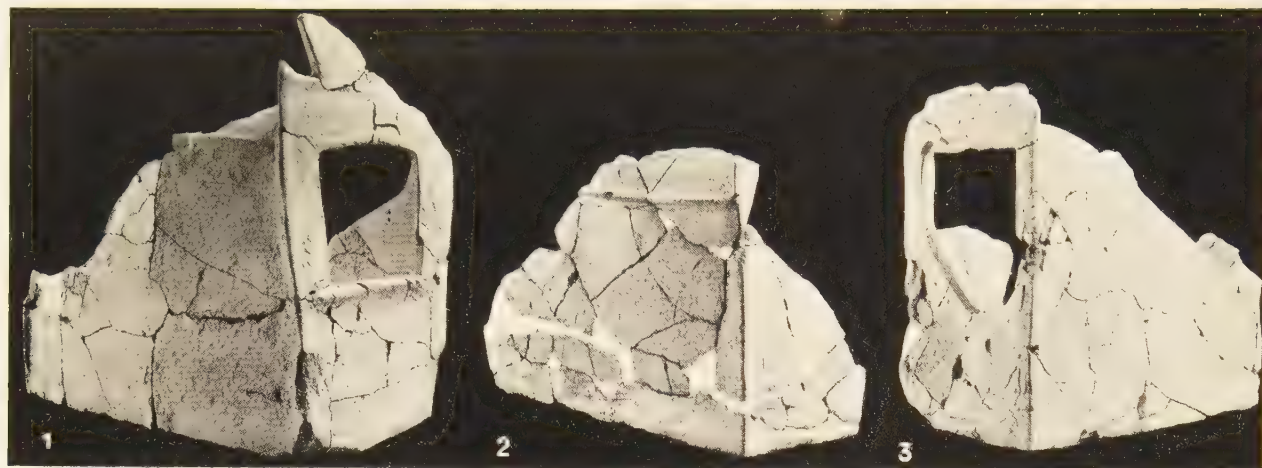
Although the mode of excavation imposed by the instability of the scarp made it difficult to appreciate clearly the relations of the pottery-bearing deposit and the overlying *kurkar*, the facts as a whole seem to represent the following situation. At about $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres below the surviving top of the *kurkar* promontory and in its east flank there was, it seems, a cave or crevice of undefined width and varying height at the mouth, tapering inwards and facing to the east. The pottery, we believe, was placed towards the front of this cave and sealed there by the construction of the wall.

In addition to the pottery contained in this cave an incomplete crushed ossuary was found, the fragments of which were scattered over the greater part of the excavated portion of the floor (p. 56, Pl. XVIII, 27-8).

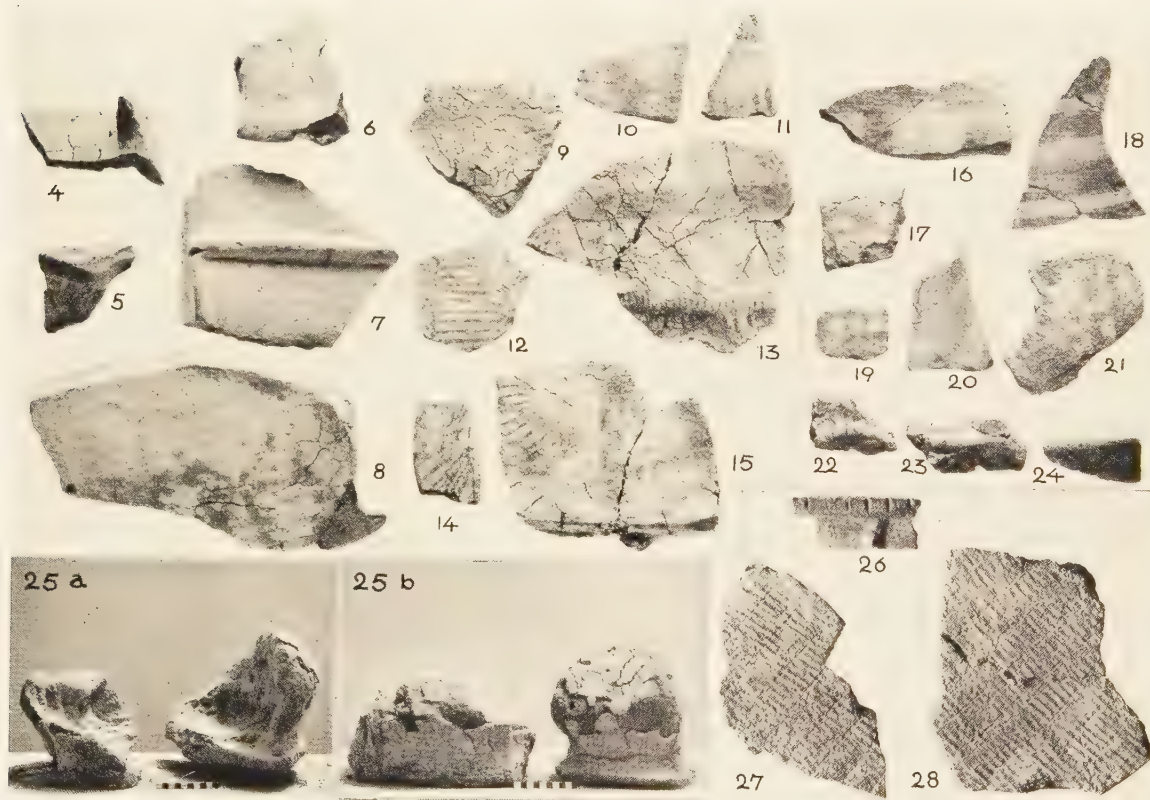
The Pottery. We have to deal with two distinct series, namely the pottery recovered from *F* and that from the various graves. Both series display a general similarity in ware as well as in technique, i.e. as regards firing and the use of grit as an ingredient. The pottery from the graves is, however, softer in texture than that of locus *F* and shows a greater variability of types.



Pottery fragments, mainly from Locus F. No. 23 is from A
CHALCOLITHIC NECROPOLIS AT BENEI BERAQ



0 10 20 30 40 cm



0 10 20 cm

Ossuaries and ossuary fragments
CHALCOLITHIC NECROPOLIS AT BENEI BERAQ

A CHALCOLITHIC NECROPOLIS AT BENEI BERAQ

While there is this distinction between the two series, a connecting link is provided by the ossuary fragments which were found mingled with the contents of locus *F*. Since these appear to be fragments of incomplete ossuaries they would seem to prove that the *F* group might be contemporary with the graves, but could not be earlier.

Both ware and technique closely resemble the pottery from other Chalcolithic sites, e.g. Jericho¹ (Level VIII), Ghassul² (especially for our series from *F*), Tell el Far'a,³ and Hedera (comparing well with our series from the graves).⁴

The ware from *F* is generally brownish with light patches where sand has been added to the clay. The clay was mixed with crushed stone varying in size from fine ground sand to coarse grits up to 2 mm. in diameter. The grits are light grey, dark grey, or yellow. Generally speaking, three kinds of ware were in evidence at *F*. They are distinguished by variations in hardness and texture. The first is evenly fired and breaks clean; the second is still hard in texture, but less evenly fired; and the third is a kind of crumbly ware, in most cases containing an admixture of sand and marked by an uneven distribution of grits. The great majority of sherds, however, belong to the first two classes.

The pottery from the graves, as well as the clay ossuaries, were generally made in a drab ware which owes its pale colour to a liberal admixture of sand in the clay. The grits, often showing on the surface, consist of coarse chips in which the lighter shades generally predominate. The surface is usually fired to a reddish-brown hue. The ware is unevenly fired and crumbly, and disintegrates rapidly if soaked in water. This accounts, no doubt, for the relatively few complete forms recovered, although a fair number of pots seem to have been deposited with the burials at *A* and *B*, and especially at *G*. A slight variation from the predominant ware is a reddish-buff well-levigated clay with few grits. Painted decoration is sometimes applied to this ware, some rims of bowls bearing traces of a band painted in brown.

On Fig. 3, p. 53, we give the principal rim forms recorded from locus *F*. As far as can be judged from the surviving fragments, the principal types represented are the following: (*a*) hole-mouth jars; (*b*) jars with necks; (*c*) bowls; (*d*) chalices or footed bowls.

(*a*) The prevailing jar appears to be the 'hole-mouth' type (Nos. 19–37). A frequent variety (19–26) has a thin rounded rim and the ware is generally a reddish buff, with well-smoothed surface of a lighter shade. The type is common at Ghassul⁵ and at Jericho (Level VIII).⁶ The crude cooking pots from *G* (Fig. 2, Nos. 1–2) bear resemblance to Ghassulian forms, though there provided with handles.⁷

(*b*) *Jars with necks* are represented by few specimens. No. 59 had a short neck with outcurved rim. In No. 60 the rim is very slightly incurved.⁸

¹ Garstang, *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology*, XXIII (1936), pp. 83 ff.

² Mallon, Köppel, *et al.*, *Teleilat Ghassul*, Vols. I and II.

³ Macdonald, *et al.*, *Beth-Pelet*, II.

⁴ Sukenik, 'A Chalcolithic Necropolis at Hedera', in *JPOS*, XVII (1937), pp. 15 ff.

⁵ *Teleilat Ghassul*, Vol. II, Pl. 77, No. 5.

⁶ Garstang, *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology*, XXIII (1936), Pl. XXXII, 25 B.

⁷ *Teleilat Ghassul*, Vol. I, p. 98, Fig. 46.

⁸ For similar forms cf. *Teleilat Ghassul*, Vol. II, Pl. 82, Nos. 6, 7 (Level IV B).

(c) The *bowls* (Nos. 11-18, 38-54) seem to form the majority of the vessels. The inverted type predominates, although the everted and straight-sided bowls are fairly well represented.

Of the few complete forms recovered from the graves, the cups or small bowls (Pl. XVII, No. 23, and Fig. 2, Nos. 3-4) seem to be of common occurrence, especially at *A* and *B*.¹

A number of spouts of various sizes placed below the rim have been recovered from

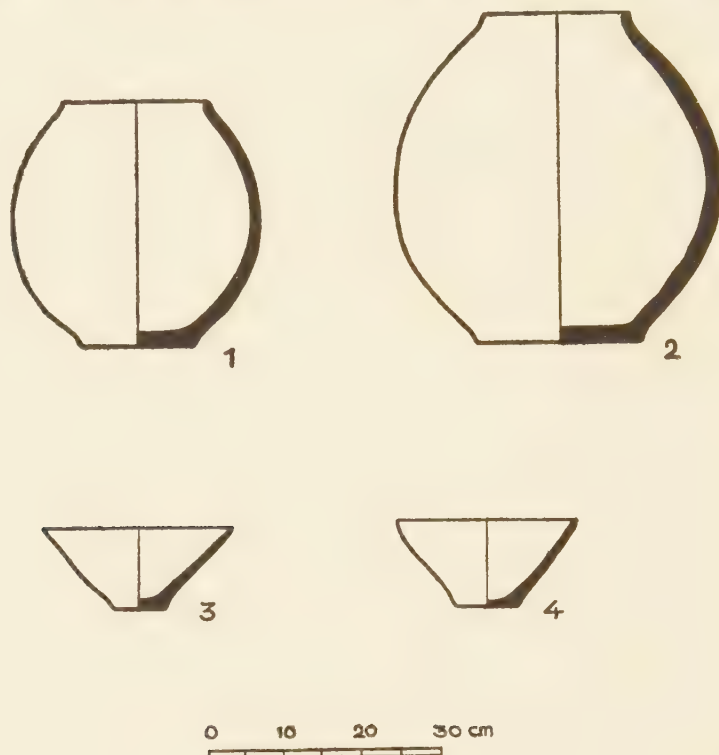


FIG. 2

Description of Fig. 2

1-2. Hole-mouth jars, coarse, brownish-buff ware, hand-made, blackened from smoke on outside. From locus *G*.

3. Bowl, coarse reddish-buff ware. From *A*.

4. As No. 3. From *G*.

F (Nos. 4, 5, and 9 on Pl. XVI, 3). This type of spout is well represented at practically all Chalcolithic sites. No. 61 is an example of a straight-sided bowl with a spout just below the slightly inverted rim.

(d) Relatively few fragments of *footed bowls* were recovered either from *F* or from the graves. Pl. XVI, 3, No. 8 is probably the fragment of a bowl forming part of a chalice; No. 7 of the foot of a chalice from *G*.

¹ For similar bowls cf. G. E. Wright, *The Pottery of Palestine from the Earliest Times to the End of the Early Bronze Age*, p. 21, Fig. 10, *a*; and Sukenik in *JPOS*, XVII (1937), p. 21, Fig. 6 *a, b*.

Knobs and Handles. Handles are mainly of the knob type, never pierced (Nos. 4, 5, 8, 9, and 13 on Pl. XVII), except for a single specimen, found in the spoil heap below *B*, which has disintegrated since. A fair number of this type were retrieved. They vary in size from 33 mm. in length, projecting *c.* 14 mm. from the side of the vessel, to a length of *c.* 75 mm., projecting 32 mm. (Pl. XVII, No. 8). The latter is already comparable to the plain ledge handle. Most knobs are slightly tilted upwards and have a depression in the middle evidently formed by the thumb or finger-tip. Pl. XVII, No. 6, is a pierced handle and possibly represents the handle of a biconical vase like those found at Tell el Far'a.¹ Another loop (Pl. XVII, No. 7) and the fragments of the stump of one or two more handles are all that were recovered from *F*. No handles were found in the graves.

Bases. The bases (Pl. XVII, Nos. 14–22) both from *F* and the graves were flat, often extending somewhat beyond the walls, the junction of the base and wall being usually marked by a groove on the outer surface. The size of any base does not appear to exceed 14 cm. No traces of matting were noted, except on the ossuaries, cf. Pl. XVIII, 27–8.

Painted Decoration. The painted sherds shown on Pl. XVIII all belong to ossuaries. The colour of the paint varies from dark to reddish brown; in many fragments it has flaked away. The decoration appears generally to have been applied direct to the surface of the clay without a slip.

Description of fragments illustrated in Fig. 3

1. Coffee-coloured, well-levigated ware; fired a light red; ground grit with few large chips; grass smoothed.
2. Brown ware; fired a reddish brown; sand and white grit chips showing on surface; smoothed.
3. Light brown ware; fired a reddish brown; well-levigated hard ware; white and dark grey grit; surface smoothed inside and out.
4. Drab ware; fired red; hard ware; white and grey grit; smoothed inside and out.
5. Drab ware; few light and grey grits; smoothed inside and out.
6. Drab ware; fired red; white grit chips showing on surface.
7. Drab hard ware; yellow and grey grit chips; smoothed.
8. Brownish-buff ware; dark grey grit; smoothed.
9. Brown ware; dark grey grit.
10. Reddish-buff, well-levigated hard ware; perfect example of good mixing; smoothed.
11. Drab, well-levigated hard ware; white grit chips; smoothed.
12. Yellowish-buff, well-levigated hard ware; yellow grit; smoothed.
13. Thin yellowish-buff ware; tiny white grits showing on surface; smoothed inside and out; painted rim.
14. Reddish-buff ware; few grits; smoothed inside and out.
15. Reddish-brown, hard ware; grey chips; smoothed inside and out.
16. Drab crumbly ware; fired a light red; grey chips and sand; smoothed inside and out.
17. Brick-red ware; well-levigated clay; ground grey grit; smoothed inside and out.
18. Reddish-buff ware; well-levigated clay; yellow grit; smoothed inside and out.
19. Reddish-buff ware; white and yellow chips; smoothed inside and out.
20. Drab crumbly ware; lime grit.
21. Brown ware; fired red; yellow, light and dark grey.
22. Brownish-buff ware; fired a light red; light and grey grits; smoothed.

¹ Macdonald *et al.*, *Beth Pelet*, II, Pl. XXIX.

23. As No. 22.
24. Grey core; reddish-brown crumbly ware; grey chips; smoothed.
25. Reddish-buff crumbly ware; grey chips.
26. Coffee-coloured hard ware; fired reddish; grit pounded with few large chips, showing on surface.
27. Reddish-buff, well-levigated ware; grit.
28. Drab ware; fired a light brown; sand and white grit showing on surface; smoothed.
29. Buff crumbly ware; grey and white chips.
30. Yellowish-buff ware; fired a reddish brown; grit ground grey and few chips; smoothed inside and out; horizontal striations.
31. Reddish-buff hard ware; fired a dull red; grit ground, white, and grey.
32. As No. 31.
33. Brown ware; fired a reddish buff; few grits, yellow and grey; horizontal striations on exterior; smoothed.
34. Yellowish-buff hard ware; buff surface; yellow chips.
35. Yellowish-buff hard ware; fired to a reddish-buff shade; well levigated; few brown chips; grass smoothed.
36. Brownish-buff ware, surface a slightly darker shade; small white grit with few black chips; smoothed.
37. Yellowish-buff ware; yellow grit showing on surface; grass smoothed.
38. Brownish-red ware; grey grit; grass smoothed.
39. Reddish-buff ware; well levigated; grit; smoothed; horizontal striations.
40. Reddish-buff ware; well levigated; white chips; grass smoothed.
41. Drab ware; fired red; light and dark grey grit.
42. As No. 41, but grey chips; smoothed.
43. Reddish-buff hard ware; light grey chips; smoothed on outside.
44. Reddish-buff ware; yellow and grey chips; smoothed.
45. Brick-red hard ware; ground grit with few grey chips; smoothed.
46. Yellowish clay, fired red; dark grit.
47. Brick-red ware; yellow, grey, and white chips; smoothed.
48. Reddish-buff crumbly ware; light and dark grey grit showing on surface; grass smoothed.
49. Brownish-buff ware; yellow and dark grey grits.
50. Reddish-buff crumbly ware; grey grit; rim smoothed.
51. Reddish-buff ware; grey chips; smoothed rim.
52. Yellowish-buff hard ware; fired a reddish brown.
53. Reddish-buff ware; well levigated; grass smoothed.
54. Light brown ware; white grits; grass smoothed.
55. Light brown ware; well-levigated clay; few grits; smoothed rim.
56. Light brown ware; white and grey grits, showing on surface; smoothed.
57. Brown ware; well levigated; ground dark grit; grass smoothed.
58. Light brown ware; fired red; few grits; smoothed.
59. Yellowish-buff hard ware; fired a light red; grit; smoothed.
60. Reddish-buff ware; well levigated; few grits; smoothed.
61. Drab, well-levigated ware; ground grit.

*Catalogue of flints*¹

Twenty-five unretouched blades and flakes, some patinated.

Sixteen used blades, on one or both sides, of medium size, 3-7 cm. in length. (One has a notch on the bulbar surfaces.)

¹ As classified by Dr. M. Stekelis

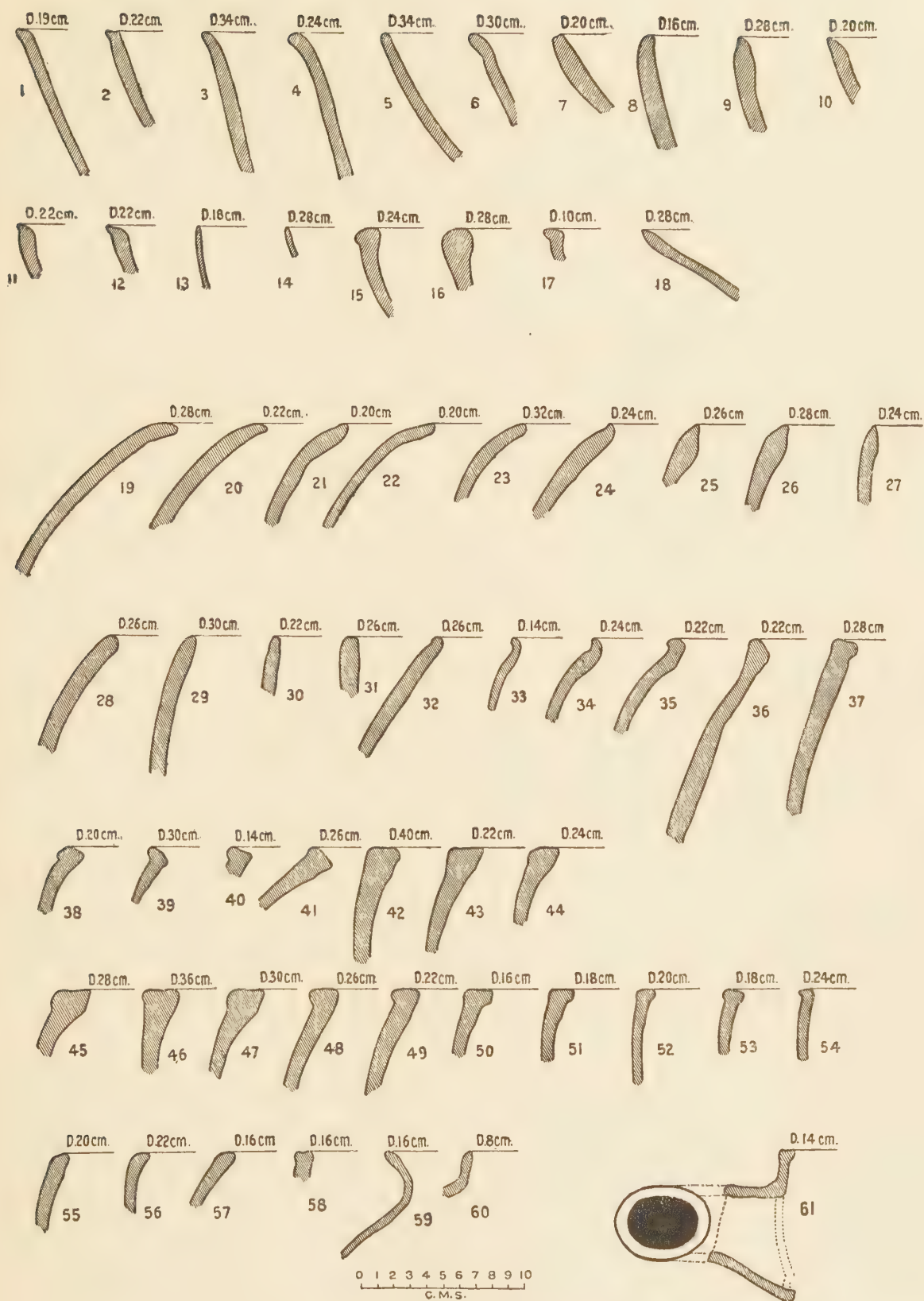


FIG. 3. Pottery fragments from locus *F*

Twenty-two retouched flints, viz.:

1. Elongated point, retouched at end.
2. Blade, possibly broken point, retouched on one side near base.
3. End scraper.
4. Small thin blade, nip retouched at one end.
5. Concave scraper, made of a flake.
6. Blade with faceted striking platform, retouched on one side, probably side scraper. Creamy patina.
7. Concave pointed blade, retouched at end.
8. Long blade retouched at both sides of bulbar surface. Creamy-yellowish patina.
9. Broken blade retouched on both sides.
10. Blade retouched on one side. Creamy patina.
11. Blade, broken, with part of the cortex, retouched near base.
12. Blade, broken, retouched on one side.
- 13-14. Small blades, retouched on one side.
15. Small flake, retouched on one side.
16. Small flake, retouched on one side and also on bulbar surface.
17. Broken blade, retouched on one side.
- 18-19. Lamelle (blade) *à dos rabattu*.
20. Font-Yves, resembling point.
21. Similar (?) to No. 20, broken.
22. Broken point, retouched on both sides.

Fifteen microliths, viz.:

- 1-9. Unretouched small blades.
- 10-13. Small blades, retouched on one side.
14. Fired disfigured flint.
15. Scraper (?), broken, with retouched circular hole in middle.

Note: The absence of sickle blades should be noted. Nos. 1, 8, 16, 18 resemble the flints found at Magharat Abu Uşba'.

Flints collected from surface of transitory settlement (?) on top of the ridge:

- I *a* Double end scraper and angle graver (burin). White patina.
- I *b* Double end scraper. White patina.
- I *c* Carinated scraper. White patina.

Note: *a*, *b*, *c* are typical of the upper Palaeolithic, especially *c*. This does not, however, preclude the possibility of their common origin with the rest of the flints.

The Ossuaries

All ossuaries contained decayed human remains, mainly of adults to judge by the size of preserved fragmentary bones, with the exception of the small fragmentary ossuary from *H* which contained tiny fragments of bone, too small to be identified. At the recess in *A* the bones were found closely packed in the remains of the ossuary, which they seem to have filled to the top, and also scattered about in the surrounding soil. Some bones were sticking to the sides of other ossuary fragments. Not a single fragment of a skull was found in the cemetery, and this may have a special significance as suggesting the possibility that the bodies were dismembered before they were deposited in the ossuaries. There were no traces of cremation.

A CHALCOLITHIC NECROPOLIS AT BENEI BERAQ

The ossuaries or coffins at this necropolis were of pottery, generally in a porous and crumbly condition due to inadequate firing of the clay, which easily dissolves in water. Considerable portions may therefore have been lost through the constant infiltration of rain into the graves, quite apart from extraneous damage caused by the recent quarrying. The shapes can only be inferred by comparison with our three partially restored specimens, each preserving certain details, which jointly give a more or less comprehensive idea of the form and type of the ossuaries.

The ossuaries may be grouped in two types: (a) roughly oval in plan, open at the top, with curved sides—the shape is reminiscent of a cradle or a boat; (b) oblong in plan, closed by a vaulted roof and having an opening in one of the short sides—this shape represents the model of a house (cf. Fig. 4).

(a) Of the former type one example is extant, from *H*, a small clay ossuary (Pl. XVIII, 25) of a light grey, crumbly ware with thin walls. It appears to have stood on a sort of rim or moulding formed by applying a separate strip of clay to the bottom edges. It measured 51 cm. at the base on the long side and had a maximum length of 59 cm. at 16 cm. above the base. From there the ends of the sides curved in again towards the top, which was missing. The width at the base was 21 cm.; the maximum width 26.5 cm. What remains of this ossuary stands 23 cm. high.

(b) Of the three restored ossuaries of the house-model type, the largest and best preserved was recovered from the spoil heap below *A*, at the upper cliff (Pl. XVIII, 1). The greater part of the roof, the side walls, and rear wall are missing. Fortunately, however, the remaining practically complete front side, together with a small portion of the vaulted roof permit the reconstruction of its original shape. The ossuary was made in a reddish-brown ware containing white and yellow grit. It was unevenly baked. It is rectangular in plan, measuring 70 cm. in length and 35 cm. in width at the base.¹ The front side is surmounted in the middle by a dove-tail crestring or pediment, about 9.2 cm. high, and is pierced by a square opening, beginning at 18.7 cm. from the base.

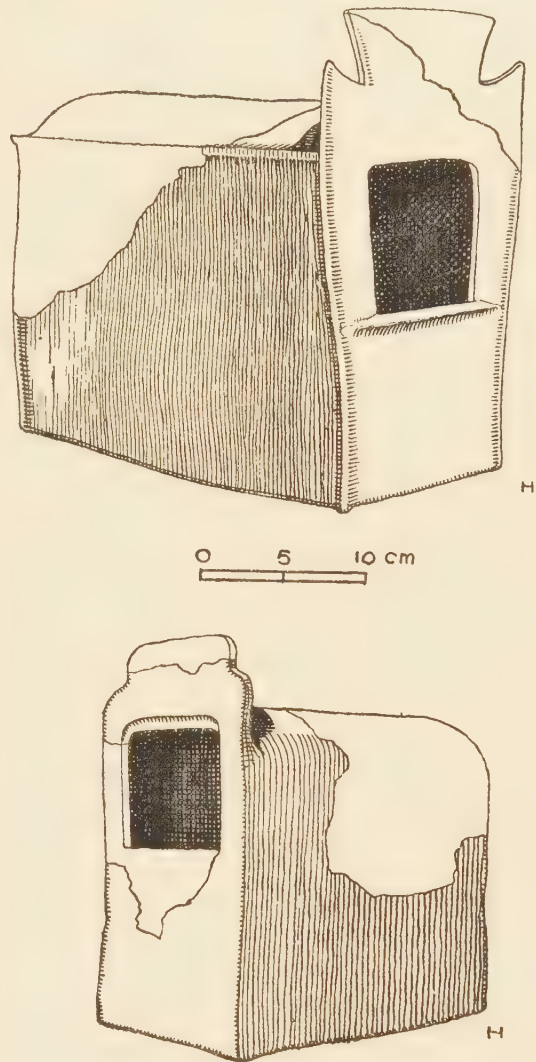


FIG. 4. Reconstruction of ossuaries

¹ Cf. Pl. XVIII, 3, with the same ratio of length to breadth.

The bottom of the opening has a projecting moulded band which extends 5.5 cm. beyond the window at each side. The moulding is about 18 mm. high and projects 2 cm. A similar moulding marks the junction of the side walls with the roof, though it is not clear whether this continued round the edge of the vault at the back (as in Pl. XVIII, 2).

The ossuary in the recess at *A* (Pl. XVIII, 2) is in a reddish-buff ware containing light grits and is relatively hard in texture. Both the front and rear walls, as well as the greater part of the roof and one side wall, are missing. Here, too, a moulded band marks the junction of the side walls and roof, and was apparently carried up to surmount the curved edge of the roof on the rear side.

The third restored example (Pl. XVIII, 3) is an ossuary found *in situ* on the left-hand side at *A*. Part of its roof, side wall, and rear wall are missing. This ossuary is in a light gritty ware, hard baked in parts but exceedingly crumbly in others; the grits are dark grey in colour. The ossuary is 57.7 cm. long by 29.5 cm. wide at the base of the front wall. The thickness of the walls varies from about 15 mm. at the low parts of the coffin to 8 mm. at the roof. It had a vaulted roof, of which a small portion is preserved near the front side. The opening in the front wall is 20.5 cm. wide; the lower edge is broken away. The top edge of the opening is moulded, while the other sides appear to be plain. The front wall was surmounted by a cresting, of which the lower portion only is preserved. The top corners of the wall are rounded off, in contrast with the sharp-edged horn-like excrescences in the front wall of Pl. XVIII, 1. More fragments of this type of ossuary were found.

On Pl. XVIII, 27-8, are shown the fragments of the bottom of an ossuary found at *G*, showing marks of matting.

Pl. XVIII, 4-8, are further fragments of moulded bands and crestings.

Of special interest are the painted fragments mostly recovered from *B* and from the spoil heap below it. Pl. XVIII, 12, shows part of a panel decorated with thin horizontal bands between vertical lines. The red paint in this case may have been applied over a light grey slip or wash. Oblique or radiating bands are shown on Pl. XVIII, 14, which has a rounded edge and may belong to the cresting of an ossuary. Wide horizontal bands are represented on Pl. XVIII, 18, 20-1. Pl. XVIII, 16, displays the top of a square panel of wide red-painted bands.

Pl. XVIII, 6, 9, 13, 15, 22-4, are the fragments of an ossuary with more elaborate paintings. The colour is applied over a light grey wash or slip. The inner surface is rough. The ware is of a brownish shade containing a liberal admixture of sand and grits. The walls are 13-14 mm. thick. The clay is poorly fired and crumbly and when soaked in water easily dissolves. This evidently explains the disappearance of the greater part of the fragments of this coffin. A reconstruction of the original form of the coffin from extant fragments is impossible, though it may be assumed that it belonged to the house-model type on the analogy of certain details with our restored specimens. Pl. XVIII, 15, probably represents the part of the door frame with a pierced knob (presumably for inserting a door-bolt). The decoration consists of thick horizontal bands crossed by thin parallel strokes. Another fragment probably formed part of the cresting

A CHALCOLITHIC NECROPOLIS AT BENEI BERAQ

and is decorated with red lines on the outer surface, while the inner side bears indistinct traces of curved lines.

The stone receptacle from *H*, of rather crude appearance, was carved out of a sandstone block (Fig. 5). It has a flat, slightly convex base, bulging walls on all sides, and

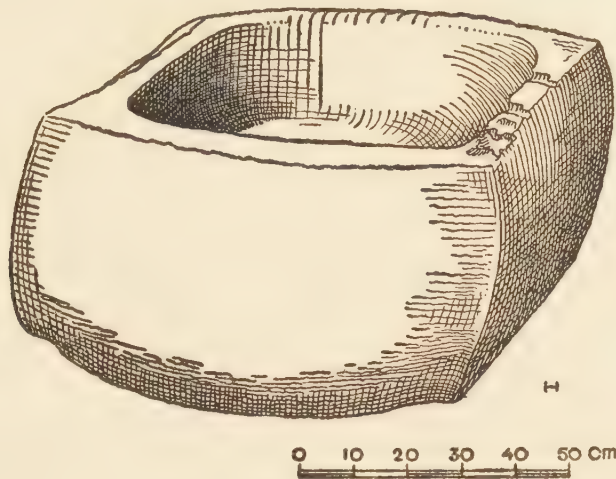


FIG. 5

marked angles at each corner. The bulge on one of the short walls is more pronounced than that on the other. The maximum length, about one metre, is slightly below the middle of the receptacle. The maximum height is 53 cm. The base is 77 cm. long and 50 cm. wide. The overall length, at the top, is 70 cm. The edges of the opening are rounded off.

The only other site in Palestine where clay ossuaries of the Chalcolithic period have been found is Hedera,¹ situated like Benei Beraq in the plain of Sharon. Both sites are in the neighbourhood of perennial streams, the Mafjar on the one hand, the Yarqon ('Auja) on the other. In fact the two sites supplement each other.

The precise use of the ossuaries still remains an open question; did they serve for secondary burials, the bones being collected after inhumation, as practised in Palestine during the Herodian period, or do they suggest dismemberment of the body? In any case it is to be noted that the practice of burial in ossuaries during the Chalcolithic period has so far not been found outside the Sharon plain.

J. ORY.

¹ Sukenik in *JPOS*, XVII (1937), pp. 15 ff.

A NABATAEAN TOMB AT 'AMMAN

THE tomb described below is situated at the foot of Jebel 'Amman el Jedid, beneath the shop of Liwan el Armeni, near the foot-bridge across the stream leading to the English Hospital.

It was excavated in 1943.

The tomb is a two-chambered family vault, see plan, Fig. 1, to which we had access

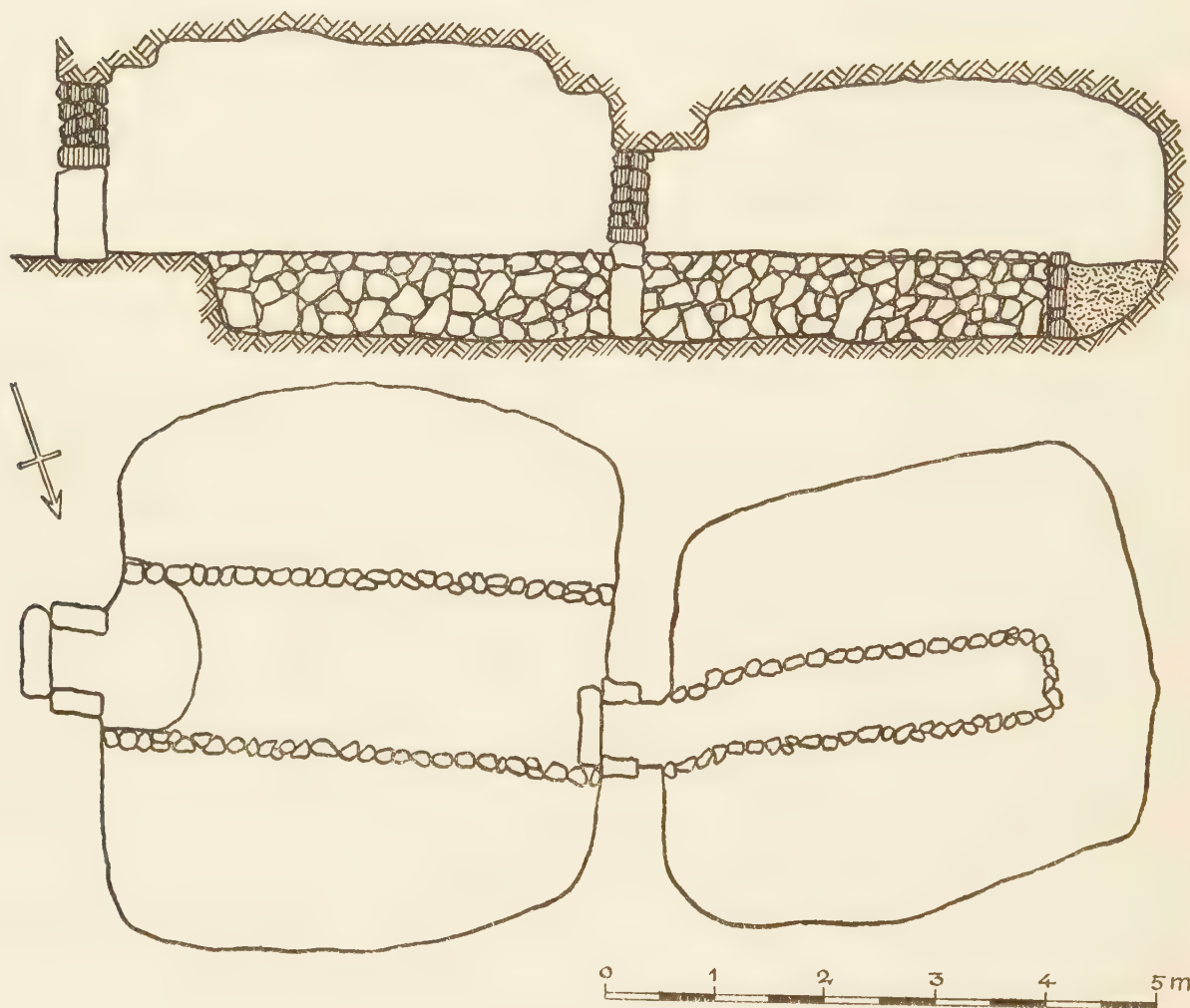


FIG. 1

through a hole in the roof of the inner chamber. The outside of the proper entrance is still buried beneath the roadway and is not accessible. The photograph, Pl. XIX, 1, shows the inner chamber, looking down the axis of the narrow passage-way to the outer chamber. The rock here is of very poor quality, with layers of crumbly flint, and it is

surprising that the roof of the outer chamber has survived the road which runs over it.¹

The most curious feature of the tomb is the fact that the benches are made of water-laid mud and stones. It is utterly illogical to suppose that when making a tomb of this type the workers would first cut out a room, pour in wet mud to a depth of more than half a metre, and then cut a central passage-way through it; the only conclusion possible is that the tomb must very considerably antedate its first-century usage. It would require many centuries for such a depth of mud to be deposited during each brief rainy season by seeping in through cracks and fissures in the rock, which was very clearly the way it got there. In the back half of the inner chamber we cleared away this heavy, sticky mud down to the rock floor, being rewarded by two nondescript sherds of which it can only be said that they cannot be later than Iron Age, and might even be Hyksos. In view of the tremendous labour involved in clearing this mud, and its present excessive cost, we had to confine this work to the small area just mentioned.

The mud that has come in since the first century has done no more than fill up the gangways and deposit about two inches over the benches. Some of the glass vases had floated up to the top of this mud, while others had filled up and remained on the original surface of the older mud. No late objects of any kind were found below this clearly defined surface.

The burials had all been robbed anciently, and only very small fragments of bones were found; some of the glass and pottery had been broken by fragments falling from the roof. The glass has all been beautifully patinated, but the outstanding find was two Nabataean decorated bowls, both unfortunately broken, though practically all their fragments were recovered. Previously only one complete decorated bowl of this type was known, now in the Palestine Archaeological Museum, so two more almost complete specimens make a welcome addition to the collection, and enable us to see how the very intricate patterns were arranged in the available space. The ware is extremely fine and thin, and must have been very easily broken, so that it is only in burials that complete specimens can be hoped for. Technically these bowls represent a high achievement in the potter's art, for they are thrown on the wheel, not cast as in fine chinaware; and a bowl is notoriously one of the most difficult forms to make, as if the clay is not just right in consistency, or if there is any unevenness in the thickness in drawing it up, it just sits down on the wheel as soon as you stand back to admire the result.

Almost the only published Nabataean ware available for comparison is that in Dr. Murray's 'A Street in Petra', and in 'Sela-Petra, the Finds', by G. and A. Horsfield in *QDAP*, IX, pp. 105 ff.

In using the latter article for comparative purposes the various reconstructions of decorated Nabataean bowls should be checked against the photographs, with which they do not always agree in detail.

The nearest parallels to the present bowls in the *QDAP* publication are: for our bowl 20, Pl. XXXVI, No. 303 *b*, and XXXVIII, No. 320; for our 21, Pl. XXXVIII, No.

¹ There are quite a number of large tombs in the vicinity, most of which are used at present as dwellings: it would seem to have been an important cemetery area anciently.

333, and XXXIX, No. 334. These are all surface finds or from an unstratified dump. From Dr. Murray's work the closest comparisons are again surface finds: Pl. XII, Nos. 1 B, 3, 4, 7, and 8, and Pl. XIII, Nos. 74 and 75, though these latter are not very good parallels: in any case they give no assistance in dating.

The surface explorations of Dr. Glueck likewise are of no use for close dating, and the material from the Nabataean temple at Kh. et Tannur is as yet unpublished. Some of the Nabataean pottery from Sbaita is discussed by Mrs. Grace M. Crowfoot.¹ From all of which it can be seen that there is no means of accurately dating what is perhaps the most characteristic ware Trans-Jordan has ever produced. Even its range in time is by no means certain: when did it begin, when end?

With the remaining pottery, the lamps and the glass vases, one can at least set a limit of two centuries, i.e. first century B.C.—A.D.; or if the evidence of the Herodian type lamps be accepted as valid, then perhaps a closer date of *c.* 50 B.C.—A.D. 50 could be postulated. It is a strange anomaly that pottery of the Middle and Late Bronze Ages can, in Palestine at any rate, be dated by its contexts to within 25 or 50 years, with reasonable accuracy, whereas as soon as the historically far better-known Roman period is reached, a couple of centuries seems to be the closest limit one can hope for.

The line drawings of pottery here reproduced are by Mr. A. K. Henschel.

LANKESTER HARDING.

Inventory of Objects (Pl. XX)

1. Lamp, medium soft buff ware, broad nozzle with triangular end, radial strokes on rim. Debased Hellenistic type. (44. 193)²

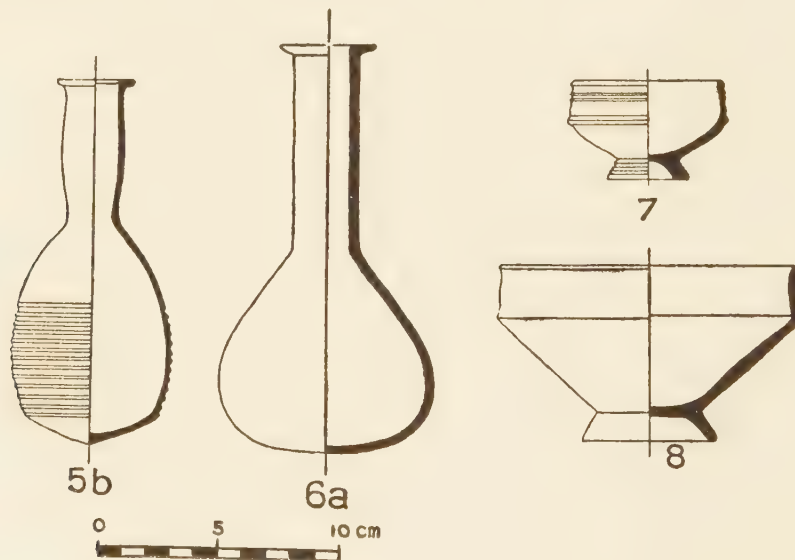


FIG. 2

2. Lamp, medium hard pinkish ware, short, splayed nozzle, raised ring round filling hole. 18 examples. Herodian type. (44. 194)

¹ Cf. 'The Nabataean Ware of Sbaita' in *PEFQSt.*, 1936, pp. 14-27.

² Numbers in brackets refer to the inventory of the Palestine Archaeological Museum.



1. Nabataean Tomb
Inner chamber, looking towards entrance

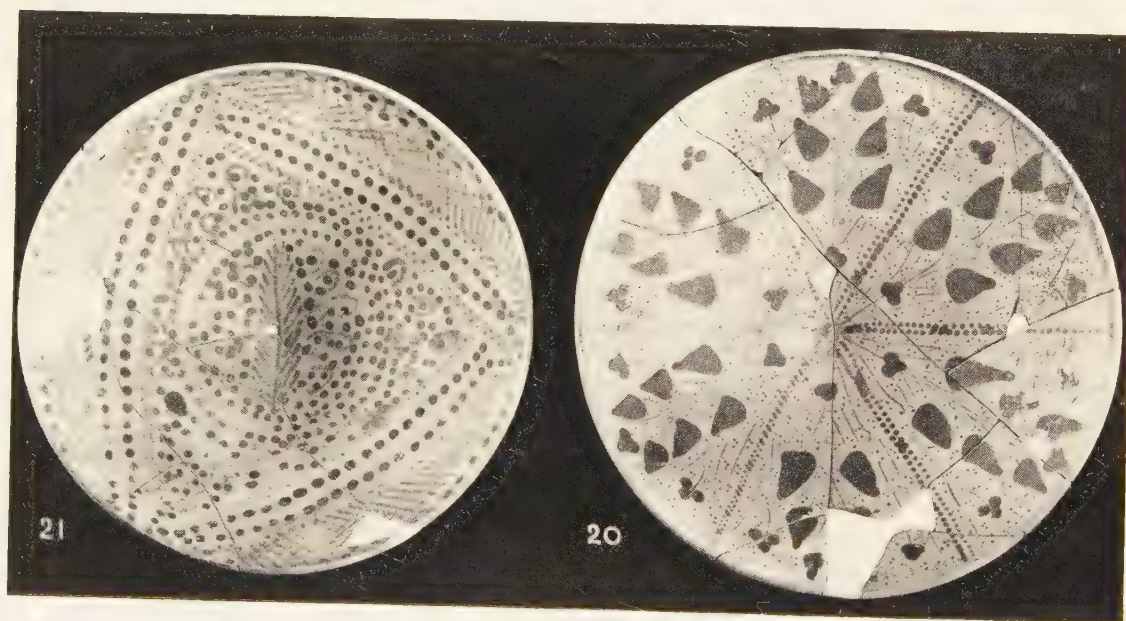


Top view



Side view

2. Tomb on Jebel Jofeh (p. 105 f.)



Nabataean Bowls

NABATAEAN TOMB AT 'AMMAN

A NABATAEAN TOMB AT 'AMMAN

3. Lamp, medium soft red ware, long pointed nozzle, radial strokes on rim, no handle. Debased Hellenistic type. (44. 192)
4. Ovoid flask with conical base, lower part of body ribbed; medium hard red ware. (44. 201)
5. As No. 4 but taller and closer ribbing on body. Two examples. Types 4 and 5 are perhaps local imitations of 6. (44. 199-200)
6. Bag-shaped flask with flattish base; hard pinkish ware, traces of red slip. Two examples. (44. 197-8)
7. Small bowl, *terra sigillata* of Eastern manufacture, medium soft ware, grooved collar rim. Ritterling type 9. (44. 195)
8. Bowl as 7 but larger and rim not grooved; traces of 'glaze'. Ritterling type 5. (44. 196)
- 9-19. Glass bottles, various forms.¹ (44. 202-12)
20. Shallow bowl, round base, wheel made, very thin, hard red ware, inner surface covered with

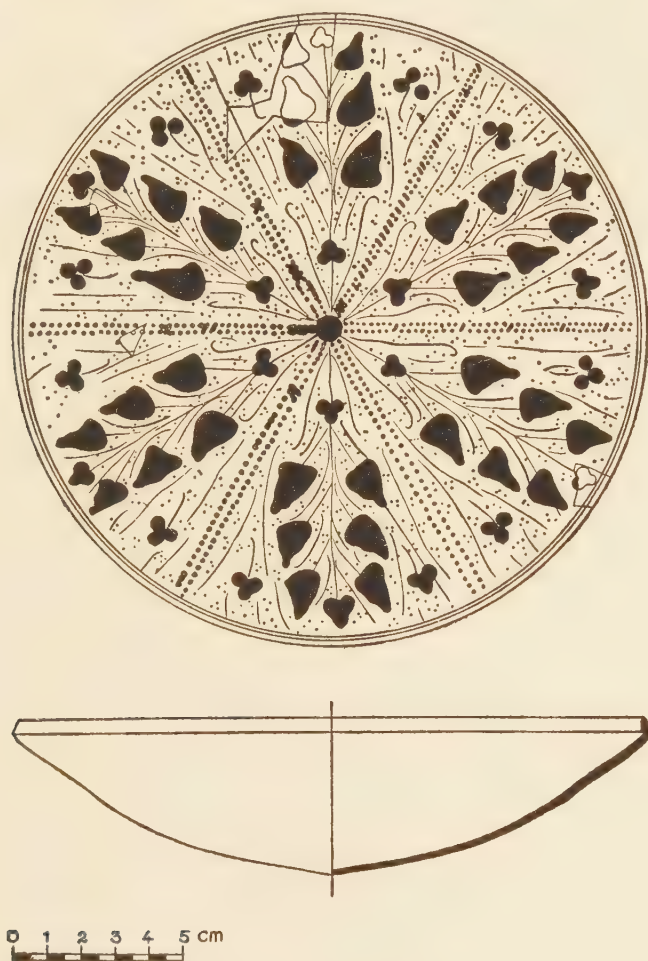


FIG. 3. Bowl No. 20

a pink slip on which the decorative motifs are painted in dark-brownish red. The area to be adorned is divided up by double rows of dots into six equal segments, each containing the same motif. Near the centre is a single heart-shaped leaf on a stem, and above are seven

¹ Nos. 18-19 not illustrated on Pl. XX.

leaves arranged symmetrically in pairs with one at the top, each leaf having its appropriate stalk or stalks. In the field on either side of the main motif near the rim is a detached clover

leaf made up of three dots and a stalk; the rest of the field is filled with fine lines and groups of dots, usually in threes. The whole effect is one of lightness and delicacy, despite the rather heavy leaves, and the conception and execution is far better than that of No. 21. Both these bowls were within a few inches of each other, near the back of the inner chamber. (44. 213)

21. The same as 20 as regards quality of ware, but the decoration is very different, the motifs here being a circle within a triangle. The circle encloses the centre of the bowl, and is composed of two rows of dots with a line between, though for about a third of the circumference dots are added to the line, and for about half the circumference there is a fourth row of dots. Within the circle is a single palm frond stretched across the diameter, the field being filled with casually arranged dots and crude loops. In the field between the circle and the triangle are more similar dots and loops. The triangle is delimited by bars consisting of three double rows of large dots with a line between and a double row of smaller dots placed alternately, giving the effect of a wavy line. The space between the bars and the rim is occupied by a lattice pattern nearest the bars and more dots and loops nearest the rim. It would have been almost impossible to have reconstructed such a pattern from two or three fragments. (44. 214)

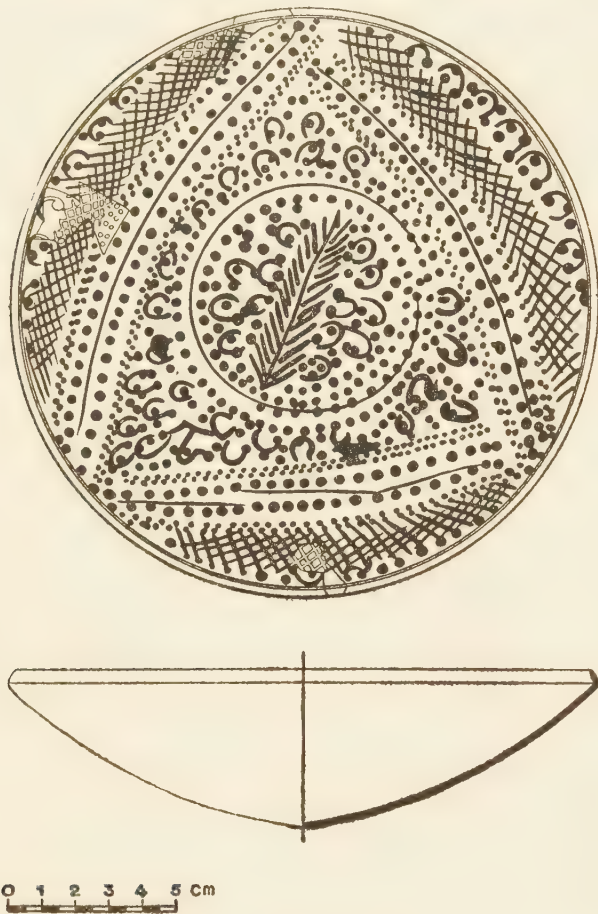


FIG. 4. Bowl No. 21

22. Fragments of bronze box corners with traces of iron nails, all too fragmentary and corroded for photography.¹

¹ Cf. B. Maisler, *Beth She'arim*, Vol. I, Pl. XXXVIII, 1 and 2.

SOME EIGHTH-CENTURY CAPITALS FROM AL MUWAQQAR

AL MUWAQQAR to-day is a field of scattered ruins lying a few hundred yards south of the road which leads to Qasr al Kharana from al Qasr station on the Hedjaz railway, 5 kilometres south of 'Amman (see map, p. 104). The site lies about 18 kilometres along that road, and is easily recognizable by the Arab Legion post of the same name which crowns a hill-top an equal distance to the north.

The ruins were visited in April 1898 by Brünnow and a few months later in the same year by Musil, who saw them again in 1901. Both of these scholars published descriptions of the site, with plans and photographs, to which nothing need now be added except that the principal buildings described have dwindled sadly since the time of their visits.¹

In 1909 Jaussen and Savignac visited al Muwaqqar and photographed a series of capitals which were lying about the ruins.² Some of these had previously been photographed by Brünnow, but others were new.

Finally, in two recent visits, the later of them in May 1943, still more capitals were added to the list. Several of those previously seen had in the meanwhile disappeared.

In all, 18 capitals³ have been recorded by successive visitors to the site. Of those eight have disappeared,⁴ two are in the Palestine Archaeological Museum, and eight were seen in different parts of the site on our visit of May 1943. The purpose of this note is to bring together in one place as complete a set of photographs or drawings of the whole group as is now possible. The table on p. 69 gives a full list of the capitals hitherto recorded. Of those which are there noted as being at al Muwaqqar Nos. 12, 14, 15, and 18 were seen in May 1943 in the courtyard of a house recently built near the site by ash Shaykh Haditha al Khuraysha⁵; Nos. 16 and 17 were in front of another new house on a ridge to the south of the principal ruin and west of the reservoir; the fragments numbered 10 and 11 were seen in the main ruins themselves.

Nos. 3, 5, and 6 in the list belong to engaged half-columns (cf. Brünnow's Fig. 766, *op. cit.*, p. 186). No. 9, which is recorded only in Musil's photograph, appears to be a rectangular pilaster capital; the reconstruction⁶ in our Fig. 6 is based on the average dimensions of the capitals which have been measured: viz. approximately 39 cm. lower diameter, 53 cm. abacus, and 40 cm. height.

So far as we know, all the capitals recorded, except No. 18, came from the principal

¹ E. Brünnow, *Die Provincia Arabia*, Vol. II, pp. 182-9, Figs. 757-71 and Pl. XLIX; A. Musil, *Kuṣejr 'Amra*, I, pp. 27-37, Figs. 20-30, and p. 102, Figs. 87 and 88.

² Jaussen et Savignac, *Mission en Arabie*, Vol. III, Pls. I and II.

³ I assume that Savignac's Pl. I top right and Pl. II middle top right are the same capital. The capital shown in Musil's Fig. 89 is at Kurnub in southern Palestine, not al Muwaqqar as stated.

⁴ One of these may have been built into the Arab Legion post at al Muwaqqar.

⁵ No. 18 has since been transferred to the Government Museum at 'Amman.

⁶ The line drawings are by Mr. A. K. Henschel. Figs. 2-6 are of capitals which have now disappeared and are drawn from the published photographs.

ruin at the northern end of the site. Capital 18 (Pl. XXII) was recently found in the mud at the bottom of the reservoir.¹ It belongs to a column which once stood there as a gauge to indicate the depth of the water.² One side of the capital is occupied by an inscription which names the Caliph Yazīd as the builder of the reservoir. This is doubtless Yazīd ibn 'Abdul Malik, who is known to have frequented Muwaqqar.³ We may reasonably assume that the builder of the reservoir was also the builder of the palace, and this is borne out by the resemblance in the style of the capitals, which we may consequently regard as a single group carved during Yazīd's caliphate between A.D. 720 and 724.

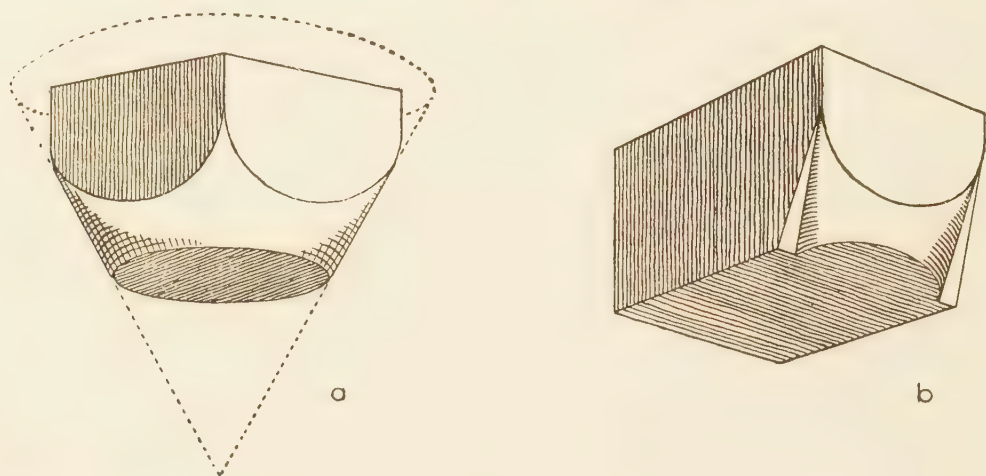


FIG. 1

In form the capitals represent the simplest geometrical solid giving the transition from a circular base to a square top, viz. the figure formed by the interpenetration of a cone with a cube (Fig. 1 (a)). Fig. 1 (b) gives the basic form of the engaged column capitals. These simple, block-like forms are barely disguised by the surface ornamentation.

The ornamentation is chiefly remarkable for its lack of uniformity. Not only does one capital vary from another in the composition and in the motives employed, but in a single capital there may be radical differences between two sides, or on a single side between the right and left halves.

No rigid classification is possible in the circumstances, but we can distinguish three broadly different types of decoration more or less indiscriminately applied. The first depends principally on the acanthus leaf, and follows in a certain fashion the Corinthian convention of pre-Islamic times. It provides a single register of acanthus leaves, often springing from an ornamental collar at the base; above, some sort of volutes, or a suggestion of them; and finally an abacus about 8 cm. deep, rectilinear in plan, with sides receding from the corners towards a central boss and decorated with a running ornament.

Within this general description manifold diversities were permitted. Thus in Nos. 15 and 16 (Pl. XXII) the acanthus register consists of eight leaves of equal height, while

¹ According to the statement of Arabs whom we met on the site in May 1943.

² See the separate note on pp. 70 ff. below.

³ Yāqūt, IV, p. 687 (Edition Wüstenfeld, Leipzig, 1924).



EIGHTH-CENTURY CAPITALS, AL MUWAQQAR

Scale 1 : 10

(Capitals Nos. 1 and 4 are reproduced by kind permission of the École biblique et archéologique française, Jerusalem)



Inscription on abacus of No. 18

Scale 1 : 10

EIGHTH-CENTURY CAPITALS, AL MUWAQQAR

in No. 7 (Fig. 2) there are sixteen leaves alternately tall and squat. Or again the form of the volutes may vary. In Nos. 12 *a* (Pl. XXI), 13 (Fig. 3), and 16 (Pl. XXII) we have two single stems rising from the middle of the capital; in Nos. 18 (Pl. XXII) and 12 *d* (Pl. XXI) the volutes are paired in the conventional manner. On the front side of No. 5 (Pl. XXI, 5 *a*) there are three such pairs. A more radical modification of the



FIG. 2. Capital No. 7

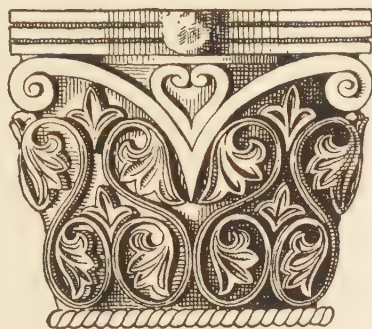


FIG. 3. Capital No. 13

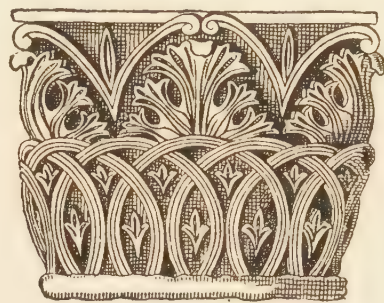


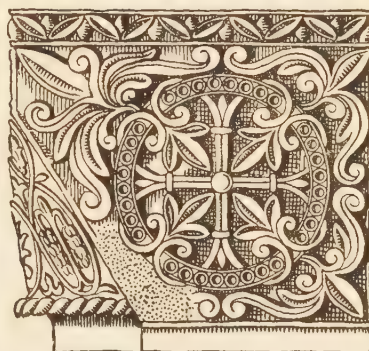
FIG. 4. Capital No. 8



a



b



c

FIG. 5. Capital No. 6

conventional acanthus type is No. 8 (Fig. 4), a kind of basket capital. Here a ring of eight acanthus leaves, framed by a series of slender hooped volutes, springs from above a band of loose wickerwork, pricked out with trefoils. No. 12 (Pl. XXI) retains the acanthus leaves in the lower register on two sides but substitutes an assortment of pseudo-floral motives on the others. Finally, No. 14 (Pl. XXII) has acanthus leaves below, surmounted by a queer medley of hybrid forms above.

The second class of design departs altogether from the Corinthian model; here the ornament is not divided into horizontal registers, but each side of the capital beneath the abacus is treated as a single field for a freely flowing design. The acanthus leaf, if used at all, is confined to the space beneath the corners of the abacus. Volutes of a sort may still develop from the design to assist the transition from the circular to the square plan. The examples of this type of decoration are to be seen on Nos. 2 *a, b* and 4 (Pl. XXI); 6 *a, b, c* (Fig. 5); and 13 (Fig. 3). Capital No. 5 combines the acanthus style on two of its sides with a free-field design on the third (Pl. XXI).

The third and last class of composition is represented by two examples, No. 1 (Pl. XXI) and No. 9 (Fig. 6, drawn from Musil's photograph). In these capitals the surface is covered with a repeating pattern of curled half-palmettes in the one and of fleurs-de-lis in the other.

A glance at the plates and figures, and at the distribution of the diverse types of design

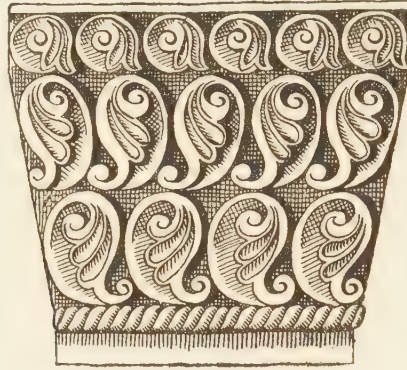


FIG. 6. Capital No. 9

between the various sides of different capitals, is enough to show that the sculptors followed their own fancy, extemporizing as they worked and caring little for symmetry or logical structure.

The same liberty marks their choice of detail. Some varieties of the motives employed are brought together in Figs. 7 to 12, which may be classified roughly as follows:

- (a) Fig. 7, acanthus or other leaves;
- (b) „ 8, vine tendrils;
- (c) „ 9, composite flowers;
- (d) „ 10, miscellaneous compositions of palmettes and half-palmettes, &c.;
- (e) „ 11, horizontal running motives;
- (f) „ 12, bosses.



FIG. 7. Acanthus leaves

The most original motive in Fig. 7 is the acanthus-palm-tree, (c) and (d). Fig. 7 (e) may be described as a palm-branch; two of these form the free-field ornament of capital

EIGHTH-CENTURY CAPITALS, AL MUWAQQAR

No. 4 (Pl. XXI). The vine tendrils of Fig. 8, especially (*c*) have a lace-like quality which is reminiscent of Nabataean work. (Pl. XXI, Nos. 2 *b* and 5 *b*.) To the composite flowers shown in Fig. 9 may be added others of uncertain form which we have indicated

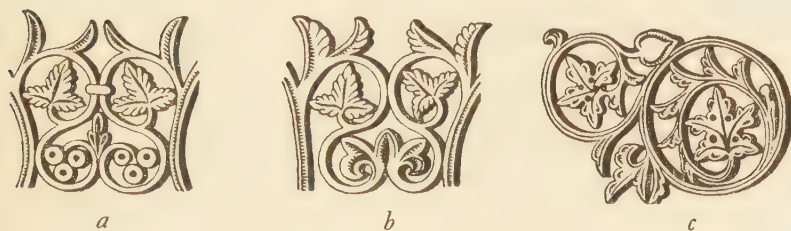


FIG. 8. Vine tendrils



FIG. 9. Composite flowers

in Fig. 5. Amongst the miscellaneous motives brought together in Fig. 10 the half-palmette predominates. The form of (*c*), consisting of a half-leaf folded within its own stem, appears in capital No. 9 (Fig. 6) and on the collar of 18 (Pl. XXII). Two of these

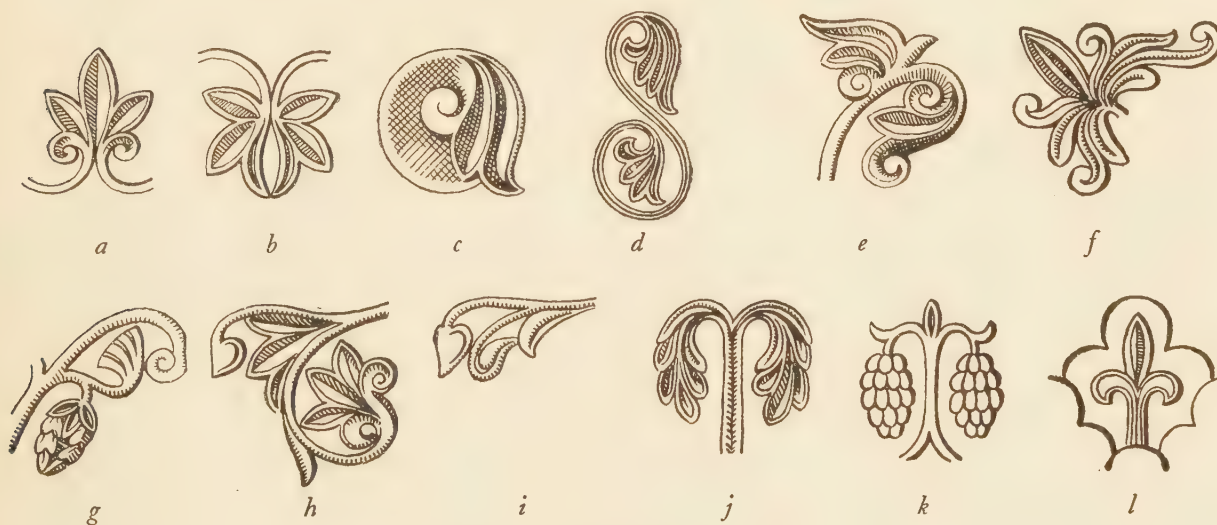


FIG. 10. Miscellaneous motives

arranged symmetrically make the heart-shaped leaf of Fig. 12 (*e*), or, set end to end, the S-shaped Fig. 10 (*d*). Fig. 10 (*h*) and (*i*) end each in an ivy leaf and do duty for volutes on different sides of capital 14 (Pl. XXII). Amongst the running motives of Fig. 11 the battlement ornament of (*j*) from capital No. 14 is noteworthy.

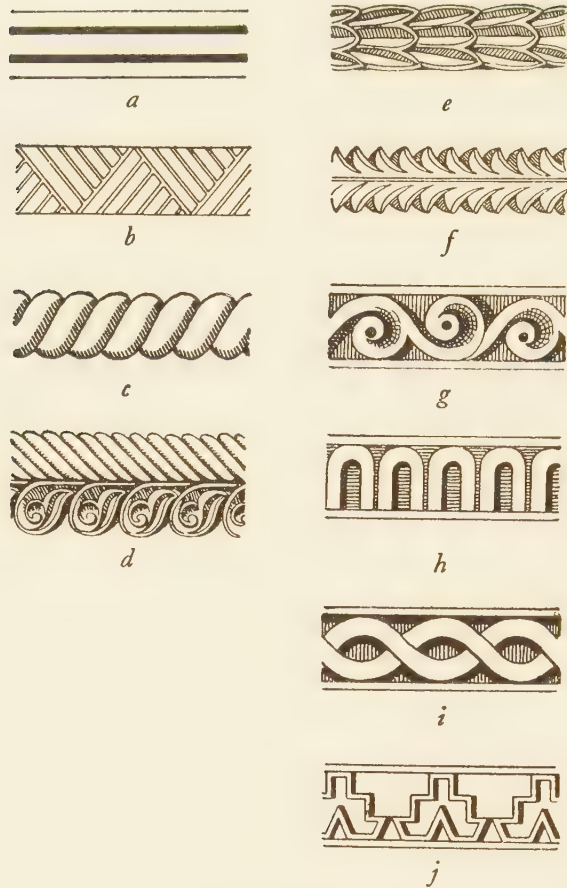


FIG. 11. Running motives

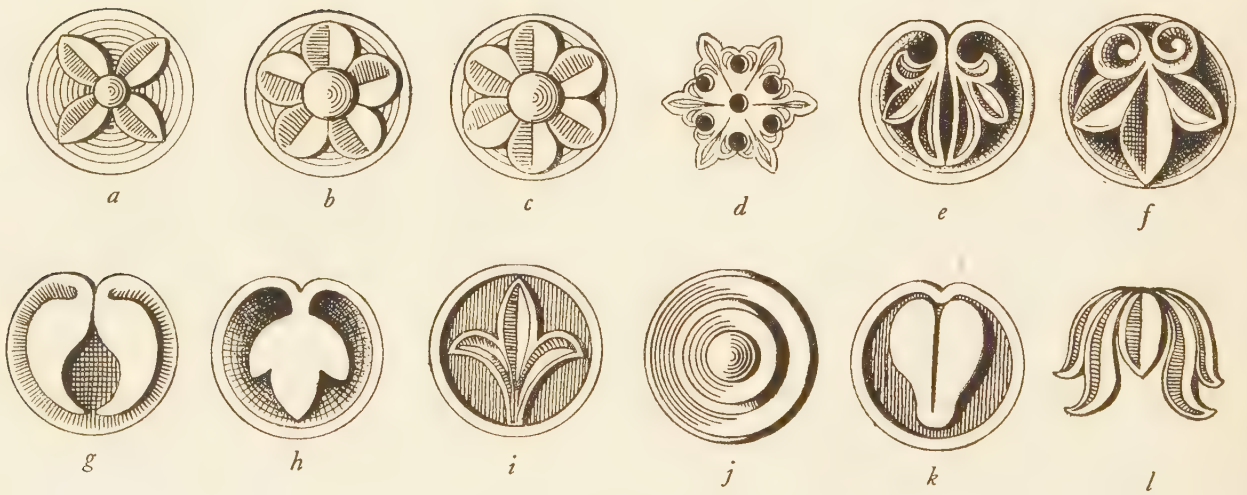


FIG. 12. Abacus bosses

EIGHTH-CENTURY CAPITALS, AL MUWAQQAR

The presence of the inscribed capital, No. 18, removes any possible doubt of the originality of the group.¹ The practice of re-using old architectural materials in preference to making new is sometimes regarded as peculiar to Islamic builders. In fact both Christian and Islamic architects made use of any early materials that were conveniently at hand; but when they were not at hand Islamic builders no less than their predecessors were ready and able, as these capitals show, to supply their own needs, and did so with a facility and freedom of which the sculptures here illustrated are a characteristic example.

R. W. HAMILTON.

LIST OF CAPITALS

<i>No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Illustrated</i>	<i>Brünnnow</i>	<i>Musil</i>	<i>Savignac</i>	<i>Whereabouts in 1943</i>
1	Column	Pl. XXI	Fig. 760, Pl. XLIX	..	Pl. II	Unknown.
2	"	"	Fig. 761, Pl. XLIX	..	Pl. II	Palestine Archaeological Museum.
3	Engaged half-column	Not illustrated, cf. No. 16	Fig. 762	..	Pl. II	Unknown.
4	Column	Pl. XXI	Fig. 763, Pl. XLIX	..	Pl. II	Unknown.
5	Engaged half-column	"	Fig. 764, Pl. XLIX	..	Pl. II	Palestine Archaeological Museum.
6	"	Fig. 5 <i>a, b, c</i> , p. 65	..	..	Pl. I (3)	Unknown.
7	Column	Fig. 2, p. 65	..	..	Pl. I, II	Unknown.
8	"	Fig. 4, p. 65	..	..	Pl. I (2)	Unknown.
9	Pilaster	Fig. 6, p. 66	..	Fig. 87, p. 102	..	Unknown.
10	Column	Pl. XXI	..	..	..	Muwaqqar, damaged.
11	? Fragment	"	..	..	..	Muwaqqar.
12	Column	"	..	..	..	Muwaqqar.
13	"	Fig. 3, p. 65	..	..	..	Unknown. Seen at Muwaqqar before 1943.
14	"	Pl. XXII	..	..	..	Muwaqqar.
15	"	"	..	..	..	Muwaqqar.
16	"	"	..	..	..	Muwaqqar.
17	"	"	..	..	..	Muwaqqar.
18	"	"	..	..	..	Muwaqqar. (Now in 'Amman.)

¹ See p. 71 below.

AN EIGHTH-CENTURY WATER-GAUGE AT AL MUWAQQAR

THE capital shown on Plate XXIII, 1, was found in May 1943 in the yard of a house lately built by ash Shaykh Haditha al Khuraysha within a few hundred yards of the ruins of al Muwaqqar. It is broken into two pieces which fit together neatly. Arabs on the spot told us that it was found in the mud recently cleaned out of the big reservoir which lies in the small valley south-east of the main ruin of al Muwaqqar.¹

The capital is attached to some 20 cm. of shaft and stands in all 60 cm. high. The corners of the abacus lie on the points of a 40 cm. square; the sides are slightly concave. The diameter of the shaft is about 32 cm. Three of the sides are decorated with a row of acanthus leaves separated by paired volutes, which support an abacus 8 cm. high. The junction of the three sides with the shaft is marked by a double collar composed of a rope ornament and a row of folded half-palmettes.

The fourth side contains a ten-line Arabic inscription² standing out in relief from a plain background. The ten lines occupy the whole height of the capital including the section of shaft. Between the eighth and ninth lines three words are incised in smaller characters than the main inscription.

A second inscription in relief runs round the abacus of the three decorated sides; it is interrupted in the middle of each by a circular boss with an inscribed trefoil (Plate XXII, 18). It reads:

اللهم صلى على محمد عبدك رسول الله

The principal inscription on the fourth side (Plate XXIII, 1, and page 73 below) reads:

'In the name of God the compassionate and merciful. Hath ordered the building of this pool the Servant of God, Yazīd, Commander of the Faithful, may God favour him and keep him, and prolong his life and happiness, and fulfil upon him his blessing and bounty in this world and the next. It hath been built by the agency of 'Abdallah son of Sulaym.'

The shorter inscribed text comprises the words 'fifteen cubits'.³

The Commander of the Faithful named in the principal inscription is doubtless Yazīd son of 'Abdul Malik, the Caliph traditionally associated with al Muwaqqar.⁴ That gives us a date between A.D. 720 and 724 for the construction of the pool. Does it also date the capital on which the inscription is executed, or could this have been borrowed from an earlier edifice⁵ and cut down to take the inscription? The question is important since it bears on the dating of the group of twenty associated and stylistically related capitals described in the preceding note. If these are contemporary with

¹ See the sketch-plan on p. 28 of Musil's *Kuṣejr 'Amra*.

² See the note kindly written by Prof. L. A. Mayer, pp. 73-4 below.

³ خمسة عشرة ذراع The long *alif* in *dhira* being omitted and the numeral, here as elsewhere, being written ungrammatically. See p. 71, n. 2.

⁴ Yāqūt, IV, p. 687.

⁵ Musil found a stone with a cross, which he reproduces in his Fig. 25, and concluded from it that a Christian occupation preceded that of Yazīd. H. Lammens (*Mélanges, Université Saint-Joseph, Beyrouth*, IV, p. 103) states that al Muwaqqar was the site of a Byzantine fort before the Umayyad occupation.

the inscription they constitute an addition to the existing corpus of dated early Islamic ornament.

Examination of the photograph reproduced on Pl. XXIII, 1, seems at first sight to support the suggestion that the inscription may be secondary, for between the third and fourth lines, and again between the fifth and sixth, there are distinct traces of the outline of foliage extending over a part of the inscribed area. Does this prove that all four sides of the capital were originally carved with acanthus foliage and that the fourth side was only later cut down to enable the inscription to be added? Although such an operation would have been difficult¹ it might be regarded as not impossible. There are, however, certain details which prove that nothing of the sort occurred. The photographs on Pl. XXIII, 1, show quite clearly that the concluding letters of lines 4, 5, and 6 project from the leaf against which they are seen in a manner which could not have been produced if the leaf had been carved first. Similarly the letters *lam* and *ha* in عليه at the end of the seventh line project sensibly in front of the grooves of the rope ornament which they interrupt. This is even clearer in the case of في at the beginning of the same line.² These details, to which others might be added, are enough to show that the inscription and foliage were cut simultaneously. It follows that we need not hesitate to regard the capital itself as belonging to the years A.D. 720-4 and therefore of specifically Islamic origin.

While the longer inscription bore out our informants' statement that the capital had been found in the reservoir, the shorter incised one immediately revealed the function of the column on which it had stood. It was a graduated shaft erected on the bottom of the pool to show the depth of the water. The highest graduation, 15 cubits, came on the capital itself. When our informants stated that carved columns had been found in the same place we were not surprised to find, a few yards from the edge of the pool, the column fragment shown in Pl. XXIII, 2-5, with three more cubits marked upon it. This fragment is 1.34 m. long and 35 cm. in diameter. One end is broken, but the other is cut square and has a square dowel hole in the middle; the column was therefore built in sections, not a monolith. The inscriptions were made by chiselling away just enough of the surface round each word to leave the lettering in shallow relief.

The three inscriptions from top to bottom on Pl. XXIII, 3-5, read '12 cubits', '11 cubits', and '10 cubits' respectively.

What was the length of the cubit employed? To answer this we must first determine what points on the shaft were meant to mark them, for there are no graduating marks. If the words do duty for graduations, we may take it for granted that the level is given by the bottom edge of the tailless letters; where the inscription is in two lines it would be natural to assume that it was the lower line which counted; otherwise at each level reached by the water the word for 'cubit' would have been submerged. But if we base our measurement on this assumption we get for the 11th cubit, taken from the bottom of the words عشرة اذرع to the bottom of ذرعا in the next line above, a length of 42.5 cm.; and for the

¹ Especially as the inscription was to be in relief.

² Pl. XXIII, 1, right side, where see also the relation of نمته in the eighth line to the lower collar motive.

12th cubit only 39.5 cm. A discrepancy of 3 cm. in so short a unit is more than can reasonably be attributed to mere clumsiness, and the lengths themselves correspond to no possible cubit; it cannot therefore have been the lower lines which gave the level intended. If we take the top lines instead, we get for the 11th cubit 45 cm. and for the 12th 44.5 cm. This is a much more satisfactory result, for the average between the two measurements, viz, 44.75 cm., falls within half a centimetre of a cubit based on the standard Roman foot of 29.6 cm., viz. 44.4 cm.

We may thus conclude that the cubit in the hands of the masons of Muwaqqar was equal, within a few millimetres, to one and a half Roman feet. Multiplied by fifteen this gives 6.71 metres as the approximate height of the column and maximum depth of water anticipated by the builders of the gauge.

R. W. HAMILTON.

Additional Note:

Since the date of our visit the foot of the column and part of the top drum of the gauge have been reported (Pl. XXIII, 6-7). The former contains the single word *dhirā*, the first cubit on the shaft; the latter the fourteenth cubit.¹ At the top of this fragment is the date, year 104;² this formed, doubtless, the last line of the building inscription on the capital.

R.W.H.

¹ The sculptor wavers between masculine and feminine gender for '*dhirā*', writing عشرة ذرعا but عشرة اذرع. The other numerals are written عشرة ذرع (*sic*) حد and ذرعا [ة] [1].

² سنة اربع [و] ثة A.D. 722-3.

NOTE ON THE INSCRIPTION FROM AL MUWAQQAR

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
 حيم امر بينان
 هذه البركة
 عبد الله يز (يد) امير
 المؤمنين اصلحه الله
 وحفظه ومد له
 فى العمر واليسر واتم عليه
 نعمته وكرامته فى الدنيا
 (و)الآخرة بنيت على يدى
 عبد الله بن سليم

In the name of the most merciful God. Hath ordered the building of this pool the Servant of God, Yazīd, Commander of the Faithful, may God favour him and keep him and prolong his life and happiness and fulfil upon him his blessing and bounty in this world and the next. It hath been built by the care of 'Abdallah the son of Sulaym.

As stated already by Mr. Hamilton, Yazīd, the Commander of the Faithful, mentioned in this inscription is undoubtedly Yazīd b. 'Abd al-Malik; this can be proved on palaeographical grounds;¹ it should, however, be pointed out that even though al Muwaqqar² is mentioned several times by Umayyad poets,³ Yāqūt is the only authority to associate it with this Caliph.⁴ No other sources mentioning al Muwaqqar refer to Yazīd as its builder, or even hint that it was his residence, let alone his favourite castle. Musil's⁵ as well as Jaussen and Savignac's⁶ statements to this effect are

¹ [It is now confirmed by the discovery of the dated fragment of the column shaft (see p. 72). R.W.H.]

² This form of the name is obviously the correct one, although Yāqūt, s.v., uses for the heading the form without the article.

³ So far as I can see all the passages concerned have been collected by Yāqūt, *Mu'jam*, II, p. 805, IV, p. 687, and al-Bakrī, *Mu'jam*, p. 565, some of the verses being quoted by both authors.

⁴ He obviously does it on the basis of the verse

يزون على تائه يزيدا بأكناف الموقر والقيم

about the authorship of which he was not certain (ذكرته الشعراء), but which is included in the *Dīwān* of Kuthayyir 'Azza (ed. Henri Pérès, Paris, 1928-30, Vol. II, p. 130, l. 5). بأكناف is somewhat slight evidence!

⁵ *Kuṣejr 'Amra*, I, p. 156: 'al-Muwaqqar, den Lieblingssitz Jazīds.'

⁶ *Mission archéologique en Arabie*, III, *Les châteaux arabes*, 1922, p. 110: 'Ce prince' (i.e. Yazid II) 'établit sa badiyah à Muwaqqar près de Mešatta', and p. 125: 'Muwaqqar, qui servait de résidence à Yazid II, ne fut vraisemblablement pas bâti par ce khalife.'

not substantiated by any Arab poet or historian. The identification of 'Abd Allah b. Sulaym, who was in charge of the work, would be, therefore, all the more important, but the sources at my disposal are unfortunately of very little help in this respect. There are at least five namesakes of his mentioned in literature as poets or reciters, some of them known to have died long before Yazīd's accession, others whose position in civil life is too obscure to allow of identification with our 'Abd Allah. That he was a man fairly high in the Umayyad hierarchy may be taken for granted because of the words "*ala yaday*", by which he is introduced in this inscription. Comparing the few contemporary inscriptions extant and a good many later ones, it can easily be proved that the name which follows these words does not indicate the mason but the official in charge.¹ It would be interesting to discover the connexions of 'Abd Allah b. Sulaym and verify in their light Herzfeld's² suggestion that the architect of al Muwaqqar was an Iranian, not even an 'Iraqian. In this connexion it may be interesting to note that the Nilometer was rebuilt by an Iranian engineer, Ibn Kathīr al-Farghānī, under al Mutawakkil in the year A.H. 247.³

L. A. MAYER.

¹ Cf. also Wiet, *CIA. Égypte*, II, p. 229, and often elsewhere.

² 'Die Genesis der islamischen Kunst, II' (in *Der Islam*, I, p. 130).

³ *CIA. Égypte*, II, p. 78.



1. Inscribed capital, No. 18



2. Shaft of water-gauge

3-5. Details of shaft inscriptions

6-7. Inscriptions on other fragments

EIGHTH-CENTURY WATER-GAUGE, AL MUWAQQAR



1. Church of the Holy Sepulchre, South door, left lintel (detail)



0 5 10 15 cm

2. Fragment of relief, showing Christ on colt
(Musée du Louvre, Paris)



0 5 10 15 cm

3. Figure of Saint (Museum of the
Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, Jerusalem)

NOTE ON A ROMANESQUE RELIEF

NOTE ON A ROMANESQUE RELIEF FROM JERUSALEM

THE left lintel from the south door of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre¹ shows a gap just right of the centre (Pl. XXIV, 1). This gap appears smaller on early photographs, and its subsequent enlargement was one of the reasons why the lintels were taken down for safety in 1929. The gap, which has evidently been in existence for some time, creates no doubt as to the nature of the missing scene: it must be Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, as is shown by the spectators, one of whom climbs a palm-tree, and by the garments spread in the way of the colt, the hind legs of which are still visible at the bottom of the panel.

In 1881 Clermont-Ganneau found in an Arab house in the Old City of Jerusalem a fragment of a relief evidently showing Christ on the colt,² and he concluded that this must be the missing part of the Holy Sepulchre lintel. This suggestion was adopted by others who wrote on the subject,³ and the fragment was given that provenance in the catalogue of medieval sculptures in the Louvre,⁴ where it has been since 1881.

It can, however, be proved—as I believe—both from the style and from the dimensions of the fragment, that between the two reliefs there is no connexion whatsoever.

The Louvre fragment, of which a cast is kept in the Palestine Archaeological Museum⁵ (Pl. XXIV, 2), is thicker than the lintels.⁶ At no point will it fit into the outlines of the existing gap in the lintel: the head of Christ, preserved on the lintel, will not join with the shoulders on the fragment; the top right corner of the fragment would overlap the spectators visible on the lintel; the hind legs of the colt on the fragment do not correspond with the hooves preserved on the lintel; finally, there is a raised profiled border on the left side of the fragment, which should be continued on the lintel, but is not.

But even without the opportunity of checking these details it should be obvious on grounds of style that the two works are of different origin. The colt, the loosening of which is depicted on the lintel in the scene which precedes the Entry into Jerusalem, is clumsy and lifeless, compared with the noble and spirited animal on the fragment. Similarly the folds of the garments, which are spiritless and dull on the lintel, are animated and bold on the fragment.

To sum up: the Louvre fragment is not the missing fragment of the Holy Sepulchre lintel, but is the work of a contemporary French sculptor of a much higher artistic standard.

It is even possible that we have, in another fragment, the work of the same master; this is the figure of a male saint (Pl. XXIV, 3) from an archivolt, which is preserved at the Museum of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem.⁷

¹ Now kept in the Palestine Archaeological Museum (No. Lo 6).

² Clermont-Ganneau, *Archaeological Researches in Palestine*, 1899, pp. 112 ff., figure on p. 113.

³ Vincent et Abel, *Jérusalem nouvelle*, 1914, I, p. 152, note 4; Enlart, *Les monuments des Croisés*, 1925-9, II, p. 169.

⁴ *Catalogue des sculptures du Moyen-Âge . . .*, Paris, 1922, No. 16.

⁵ Cast 196.

⁶ Fragment, 14 cm.; lintel, 10 cm.

⁷ Deschamps, *La sculpture française en Palestine . . .*, 1931 (Monuments Piot, Vol. XXXI), p. 6, Fig. 4; Enlart, *loc. cit.*, Pl. 195, Fig. 585. Both describe it as the Virgin in the scene of the Annunciation, whereas some diverging ridges below the break could be interpreted as the tips of a beard.

The drapery is almost identical: soft folds arranged whirl-like around the joints, with the same distance from one another, and the same distribution of light and shade. Another similarity is the ornamentation on both reliefs of some of the garment hems with drill-holes.

The 'male saint' is thought by Enlart and Deschamps to come from St. Mary the Great, but C. N. Johns suggests tentatively a provenance from the Church of St. John. At any rate both fragments come from a building near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. A third very small fragment, at the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, may be added which shows the arcades of a palace, and a similar moulding to that which we see at the left vertical edge of the Louvre relief.

As to the subject of the Louvre fragment, the most likely interpretation is still the Entry into Jerusalem.

E. HENSCHEL-SIMON.

A HEBREW SEAL FROM SAMARIA

THE seal described below was found in May 1944 by a peasant in the fields of Samaria (Sabastiya). It subsequently passed into the collection of Sir Harold MacMichael, then High Commissioner for Palestine and Trans-Jordan, who kindly authorized the writer to publish this note and presented the seal to the Palestine Archaeological Museum (Inv. No. 44. 319). According to a statement made by the finder to Salem Effendi Husseini, Inspector of Antiquities, the seal was found east of the ancient site, about a hundred metres to the south of the Roman Tombs, near 'Mr. Crowfoot's pottery deposit'. By the 'pottery deposit' is evidently meant the 'Israelite Shrine', known as 'Deposit E. 207' while the excavation was in progress, and situated about 150 metres to the south of the line of Roman tombs.¹

The seal (Pl. XXV, *a*) is a scaraboid, perforated lengthwise, with plain domed back and vertical sides slightly converging towards the base. The intention to imitate a scarab is clearly shown by the fact that the peak of the dome is not in the centre but at a point distant one-third from one end (cf. Pl. XXV, *a*, below), as in a true scarab, which normally has its highest point at the prothorax.² The material is banded agate³ of light milky and light grey colours passing at each end into translucent quartz. The surface of the back and of the sides is of an unusually high polish; the base is polished too, though to a lesser degree, and forms an attractive background for the incised drawing and letters which are mat. The unincised portions of the base exhibit little scratches evidently caused by wear.⁴

The design on the base represents a winged griffin, with a falcon's head and lion's body; he is in a seated position, leaning slightly back on his haunches, his forelegs erect and apart. The strong tail is raised and its tip curved outward. Instead of the composite crown of Upper and Lower Egypt worn by practically all griffins on Palestinian seals,⁵ he has above his head an oval blob obviously representing the sun-disk.⁶ In front of the griffin is a uraeus in an upright position, summarily drawn but easily recognizable by the characteristic angle formed by the head and upper part of the body. The cutting shows a very skilful hand: the smallest details are clearly visible, such as the plumage on the neck and wings, the strong muscles on the shoulder, the eye, and the paws.⁷

Below the griffin is an inscription in clear Hebrew characters לפטאס (belonging to

¹ Cf. Crowfoot, Kenyon, Sukenik, *The Buildings at Samaria*, Pl. I, square 1500 E/400 N, No. 27 on plan.

² This detail may be seen on drawings, e.g. Hall, *Catalogue of Scarabs, &c., in the British Museum*, p. xxxi, A 1, A 7; p. xxxii, D 2, &c., or on scarabs photographed in profile; cf. Rowe, *A Catalogue of Egyptian Scarabs in the Palestine Archaeological Museum*, Pl. XXXV, Nos. 1, 6, 8, 28, &c.

Other scaraboids of careful workmanship which I have examined in the Palestine Archaeological Museum (Nos. J. 228, J. 894, J. 1064, 36. 1830, 38. 474) show the same characteristic detail.

³ I have to thank Mr. Y. Bentor of the Geological Department of the Hebrew University for this information.

⁴ Richter, *Catalogue of Engraved Gems*, p. xlvi.

⁵ e.g. Dinger, *Le iscrizioni antico-ebraiche palestinesi*, Pl. XIX, 3, 7, 8, 14; XX, 16; XXI, 17.

⁶ For a griffin with sun-disk, see *ibid.*, Pl. XXI, 20.

⁷ A seal very similar in design but without inscription is shown in Von Der Osten, *Ancient Oriental Seals in the Collection of Mr. E. T. Newell*, Pl. XXXIII, No. 537.

Pt's). There is no dividing line between the drawing and the letters such as is usually found on Hebrew seals of careful workmanship. The reason may be sought in the fact that the craftsman engraved the griffin first and was then left with a space barely sufficient for the inscription. Omission of the dividing line just enabled the stone-cutter to fit the letters into the remaining surface.

Pt's is a purely Egyptian name  *Pt-di-ist*, 'the one given by Isis'; it is frequently found in Egypt from the XXIInd Dynasty down to the Ptolemaic period.¹ In Egyptian it is paralleled by many others of similar composition, such as *Pt-di-imn* ('the one given by Amon'), *Pt-di-inpw* ('the one given by Anubis'), &c., the most familiar being Petosiris and Pedibast.² In biblical Hebrew its obvious parallels are נתניהו, נתנאל, and פוטיאל, a hybrid form composed of the Egyptian *Pt-di* ('the one given') and the Hebrew אל.³

The earliest-known occurrence of the name *Pt's* in the Semitic domain seems to be in the seventh-century B.C. on a Phoenician ivory box from Ur, dedicated to Ashtoreth by אמתבעל בת פטאס.⁴ It further occurs in the Nippur documents⁵ of the fifth century and is frequent in the Aramaic papyri of Elephantine, where it is borne by Egyptians,⁶ or by Jews as פטאסי בן נבונתן⁷ and פטיסי בר נתן.⁸ The name further occurs on jars from Elephantine,⁹ on two pottery sarcophagi from Saqqara,¹⁰ on an Aramaic stele of the fourth century,¹¹ and in the unusual form פטנאסי as a graffito on a column at Abydos.¹² It is equally found in its Greek forms Πετεῖσις, Πετήσας, Πετήσιος, Πετῆσις, &c., in papyri from Egypt.¹³

If we look for other occurrences of Egyptian names on Hebrew seals we can quote פשחור, probably of Egyptian origin,¹⁴ but firmly established in the Hebrew onomasticon of the Bible. This name was tentatively read by Levy on a seal from Cyprus¹⁵ and is found on two seals from Palestine.¹⁶ Another Egyptian name not recognized hitherto as such is פרע on a seal published by Reifenberg¹⁷ and tentatively explained by him

¹ Ranke, *Die ägyptischen Personennamen*, s.v. *Pt-dj-ist*, p. 121, No. 18.

² My thanks are due to Dr. H. J. Polotsky for having kindly read these notes.

³ Noth, *Die israelitischen Personennamen*, p. 63.

⁴ Burrows, 'Phoenician Inscription from Ur', in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 1927, pp. 791-4. For a good reproduction cf. Woolley, *Antiquaries Journal*, Vol. VII (1927), Pl. XLIX, 1. The inscription is further commented upon by P. Savignac in *Revue Biblique*, 1928, p. 259, who is inclined to date it to the beginning of the century.

⁵ Clay, *Business Documents of Murashu Sons of Nippur dated in the Reign of Darius II* (Part I, Philadelphia, 1904, Part II, 1912), Index of Proper Names, s.v.

⁶ Cowley, *Aramaic Papyri of the Fifth Century B.C.*, Pap. 73, ll. 4 and 9; Pap. 83, l. 3.

⁷ Pap. 14, l. 11. It may be noted that the name of the father is composed of the Babylonian god Nabu and of the Hebrew verb נתן.

⁸ Pap. 53, l. 2.

⁹ Lidzbarski, *Krugaufschriften aus Elephantine*, 1912, Nos. 48 and 57.

¹⁰ Aimé Giron, *Textes araméens d'Égypte*, p. 94, Nos. 96, 97.

¹¹ *Idem*, 'Adversaria semitica', in *BIFAO*, Vol. XXXVIII, pp. 40-3.

¹² Lidzbarski, *Ephemeris*, Vol. III, p. 114.

¹³ Preisigke, *Namenbuch*, s.v.

¹⁴ Spiegelberg, in *ZDMG*, Vol. LIII (1889), p. 635.

¹⁵ 'Althebräische Siegelsteine' in *ZDMG*, Vol. XI (1857), p. 319.

¹⁶ Reifenberg, in *PEQ*, 1938, p. 115; Sukenik, in *Kedem*, Vol. II (1945), pp. 9-10.

¹⁷ In *PEQ*, 1939, p. 197.

as 'the leader'. But besides the fact that the translation of the rare biblical word פֶּרַע is very uncertain,¹ one would expect a proper name after a ל on a seal. I venture therefore to suggest that פֶּרַע represents the Hebrew transliteration of the name  *Pz-rc*, or *Pz-n-rc*, 'he who belongs to Ra'; both forms occur in Egypt in the New Kingdom.² Similar theophoric names consisting of *pz* and of the name of an Egyptian god are found in Hebrew transliteration in the Elephantine papyri, e.g. פֶּחֶפִּי for *Pz-hp*, 'he who belongs to Apis', פֶּמֶן for *Pz-mnw*, 'he who belongs to Min'.³

Let us now consider the Hebrew transliteration of the Egyptian name on our seal. The Egyptian article *pz* is expressed by the letter פ similarly as in the Bible in the name פֶּשְׁחֹר; the biblical usage is not uniform, however, and *pz* is also rendered by פִּי in פִּינַחַס, or by פו in פוֹטִיאל; in פוֹטִיפֶרַע⁴ we have two renderings, פו and פ. In cuneiform documents we find *pu* in Assyrian and *pa* in Neo-Babylonian.⁵

The ט of פֶּטַאס represents the Egyptian verb *dī* 'to give'. The rendering of the *d* by the emphatic ט is in conformity with the Assyro-Babylonian usage,⁶ as well as with the Aramaic⁷ and with the biblical transliteration in the last two of the above-mentioned names. The *i* of *dī* is not expressed here nor in the Aramaic texts, though the Bible inserts a י in פוֹטִיאל and פוֹטִיפֶרַע. The vocalization of the verb is *tu* or *ti* in Assyrian,⁸ and *ta* in Neo-Babylonian.⁹

As for the transliteration of the last part of the name, viz. אס for the Egyptian *z.t*, the position is as follows. The word was probably pronounced *ēse* or *ēsi* as shown by the Coptic forms  and the Greek . The initial weak consonant which appears in Assyrian and in Neo-Babylonian as a long *e*¹¹ is rendered in Hebrew and in Aramaic by an א. The final vowel, on the other hand, which is represented in Assyrian by a *u*, in Neo-Babylonian by an *i*,¹² and in Aramaic by a י,¹³ is not expressed at all on our seal. The same transliteration without a final י occurs in Phoenician,¹⁴ as well as in Nabataean¹⁵ inscriptions, where we find the form אס for Isis.

¹ Gesenius-Buhl, *Handwörterbuch über das Alte Testament*, 17th ed., s.v.

² Ranke, *Personennamen*, p. 114, No. 11, and p. 109, No. 13.

³ Cowley, Pap. 74, ll. 1, 3. ⁴ A. Hamada, 'The Stela of Potiphar', in *Annales du service*, 1939, pp. 273-97.

⁵ Ranke, *Keilschriftliches Material zur altägyptischen Vokalisation*, 1910, p. 48.

⁶ Steindorff, 'Die keilschriftliche Wiedergabe ägyptischer Eigennamen', in *Beiträge zur Assyriologie*, I Bd., Heft 1, 1889, p. 349; Ranke, *Keilschriftliches Material*, p. 93.

⁷ Spiegelberg's table of transliteration from ancient Egyptian to Aramaic in his 'Ägyptisches Sprachgut in den aus Ägypten stammenden Urkunden der Perserzeit' in, *Festschrift Nöldeke*, II, p. 1114.

⁸ Note the obsolete form פֶּטוּאסי in *CIS*, II, No. 155 B.

⁹ Ranke, *op. cit.*, p. 48, n. 1.

¹⁰ Erman-Gradow, *Wörterbuch der ägyptischen Sprache*, Vol. IV, p. 8, s.v. *z.t*.

¹¹ Ranke, *op. cit.*, p. 43.

¹² Ranke, *loc. cit.*

¹³ The י is found consistently in all the Aramaic variants, such as פֶּטַאסי, פֶּטִיסי, פֶּטַסי, and פֶּטוּאסי. Cf. also Aimé Giron, *Textes araméens d'Égypte*, p. 94. If his contention that the Aramaeans pronounced the name with the accent on the final י be right, it can hardly apply to the earlier pronunciation, as in our case, where י was not appended.

¹⁴ As on the seventh-century B.C. box from Ur, in *JRAS*, 1927, pp. 791-4; and on the third- to second-century inscription from Memphis, cf. Lidzbarski, *Ephemeris*, Vol. I, p. 155; further in the compound name עֲבֹדָאס, e.g. *CIS*, I, No. 50 (from Cyprus); *Répertoire d'épigraphie sémitique*, I, No. 298 (from Sidon).

¹⁵ In the compound עֲלִימַתָּאס, 'the female servant of Isis', Lidzbarski, *Ephemeris*, Vol. II, p. 267.

The period to which the seal belongs may be gathered from the style of the griffin, from the form of the letters, and from general considerations.

The representation of the falcon-headed griffin originated in Egypt,¹ where it evolved out of a purely Egyptian mythological conception. The motif was, however, taken over by other peoples² and in the hands of the craftsmen in the Syro-Palestinian region assumed a form of its own. This 'Phoenician' form invariably retains the Egyptian attributes such as the double crown, the sun-disk, the uraeus, &c., but has a definitely non-Egyptian appearance and shows among others such details as strongly emphasized muscles and straight wings.³ This type may best be studied on the Phoenician metal bowls and ivory plaques from Nimrud⁴ and Samaria⁵ dated to the ninth and eighth century B.C., and on many seals and scarabs from Syria, Palestine, Cyprus,⁶ and other places where Phoenician influence is known to have existed.⁷

As for Palestine, the following seals with representations of griffins have been found in datable contexts:

- (a) The לחיים⁸ seal from Tell el Far'a, found in Tomb 228, in association with ninth- to eighth-century pottery.⁹
- (b) Two scarabs from Level III of Megiddo (780–650 B.C.).¹⁰
- (c) A scaraboid showing a griffin of debased style, found in Tomb 2 of 'Ain Shems,¹¹ dated by the pottery to the eighth or seventh century.¹²
- (d) A scarab from Samaria, found in the 'Israelite Shrine'.¹³
- (e) A clay sealing from Samaria,¹⁴ Level V, dated to the eighth century B.C.¹⁵

¹ The problem is amply treated by Staples, *An Inscribed Scaraboid from Megiddo*, Or. Inst. Comm. No. 9.

² Ziegler and Prinz in Pauly-Wissowa, *Real-Encyclopädie*, s.v. Gryps.

³ Watzinger, *Tell el-Mutesellim II, Die Funde*, p. 66; Poulsen, *Der Orient und die frühgriechische Kunst*, pp. 9, 51.

⁴ Layard, *The Monuments of Nineveh*, II, Pls. 63 and 66; Barnet in *PEQ*, 1939, p. 17 and Pl. X.

⁵ Crowfoot, *Early Ivories from Samaria*, Pls. V–VII.

⁶ Cesnola, *Atlas*, Vol. III, Part I, Pl. XXVI, 2; XXXVI, 5. Pietschmann, *Geschichte der Phönizier*, p. 273, Figs. a and c.

⁷ A griffin similar to ours is shown on a scarab found as far afield as Castelbellino on the Adriatic coast of Central Italy; cf. Marconi, 'La cultura orientalizzante nel Piceno', in *Monumenti Antichi*, Vol. XXXV, p. 374, Fig. 36.

⁸ Interpreted by Kutsher as ל(א)חיים, cf. *Kedem*, Vol. I (1942), p. 44.

⁹ Petrie, *Beth Pelet*, I, Pl. XXXV, 427, and tomb list on Pl. LXVIII.

¹⁰ Lamon and Shipton, *Megiddo I*, Pl. 67, Nos. 43 and 44.

¹¹ Mackenzie, *Excavations at Ain Shems*, *PEF Annual II*, Pl. XXXVIII, 2.

¹² Grant and Wright, *Ain Shems*, Part V (Text), pp. 2–3 and n. 3.

¹³ Rowe, *Cat. of Scarabs*, p. 208, No. 886. The scarab is assigned by Rowe to the XXVth Dynasty (712–663 B.C.), but his dating is based on his interpretation of the cartouche ⊙𐤀𐤃 as being 'doubtless a form of the name of Shabataka'. This seems to me to be very doubtful indeed: the name of Shabataka is ⊙𐤀𐤃𐤕, and in the instances quoted by Rowe to support his theory we find that ⊙𐤀 is an abbreviation of ⊙𐤀𐤃; but one could hardly assume that ⊙𐤀 is 'a form' of ⊙𐤀𐤃. The dating of the scarab depends therefore entirely on the associated pottery found in the Israelite Shrine (= Deposit E 207) which will be dealt with in a forthcoming volume, *Samaria-Sebaste III*. According to a communication kindly supplied by Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, it is of the eighth century B.C. This is in perfect agreement with the conclusion arrived at by the writer after having examined the pottery now in the Palestine Archaeological Museum.

¹⁴ Rowe, *op. cit.*, p. 264, No. S. 103, and Pl. XXIX.

¹⁵ Crowfoot, Kenyon, Sukenik, *The Buildings at Samaria*, p. 108.

(f) A hitherto unpublished¹ stamped jar handle (Pl. XXV, c) from the 1933 excavations at Samaria. The handle (P.A.M. No. 33. 2232) is from a large jar and has a prominent central rib. The fabric is typical for Iron Age II jars from Samaria: a rather coarse clay, well fired into a hard clinky ware, bright red on the inside surface, dark grey in centre of section and covered on the outside with a reddish-buff wash, wet-smoothed and showing large white particles on the surface.

It bears the impression of an oval seal (Pl. XXV, c¹), showing, above, a seated griffin wearing an Egyptian kilt; below, a horizontal line and under it traces of four or five Hebrew letters which are too faint to be at all legible. The handle was found in the area Qd in Level VI, provisionally dated by excavators to the late eighth century B.C.²

It is significant that the closest parallels to the griffin on our seal, both in style and in attitude, are (d)–(f), which are likewise from Samaria.

Two other seals with winged griffins found in unstratified areas at Megiddo, viz. the לאסך and לחמן seals, are dated to the eighth or seventh centuries.³ To the same period are to be attributed, mainly on stylistic grounds, other seals with griffins, as those from Ascalon and Gezer⁴ and a scarab of unknown provenance but with a griffin so closely similar to the one on the לפטאס seal that it may be worth while to publish it here⁵ (Pl. XXV, b). The scarab, of amethyst, is in the collection of Sir Harold MacMichael and was acquired in Jerusalem. It may be described as follows: back well worked, showing the division into head, prothorax, and elytra, notches at the base of elytra are asymmetrical. The legs are indicated. The base of the scarab shows a falcon-headed griffin, leaning back on his haunches, with forelegs erect. Above the griffin's head is an oblong device, widening below, perhaps intended to represent the crown of Upper Egypt.

The form of the לפטאס seal, common throughout the whole of the Iron Age II and Persian periods, is in itself a poor criterion, but the carefully worked domed back with its highest point off centre is perhaps an additional indication of a rather early stage within this range.

What conclusions may be drawn from the form of the letters? The ל with its acute angle is similar to the *lamed* of the Gezer Calendar and of the Samaria ivories, and unlike that of the Samaria ostraca or the Siloam inscription which has a rounded bend. On seals we find both forms, but the sharp form prevails among the earlier examples. The closest analogies are to be found in the ל on the לשבנא seal from Tell ed-Duweir⁶ and on the לשר seal from Samaria.⁷ It should, however, be remembered that the ל is one of the least characteristic letters of the ancient Hebrew alphabet.

¹ My thanks are due to Mr. J. W. Crowfoot for his kind permission to publish the stamp.

² I quote from Mr. Crowfoot's letter: 'Qd was one of the few places at the summit from which pottery closely resembling that from E 207 was found.'

³ Thus Lidzbarski, Gressmann, Cook, and others quoted in Diringer, *Iscrizioni*, p. 169. Albright dates the Asaph seal to 780–733 B.C.: cf. *The Excavation of Tell Beit Mirsim*, Vol. III, 1943, p. 2, n. 1.

⁴ Staples, *An Inscribed Scaraboid*, p. 52 and Fig. 36.

⁵ By kind permission of the owner.

⁶ Diringer, *Iscrizioni*, Pl. XX, 27.

⁷ Sukenik, *PEFQSt.*, 1928, p. 51.

The פ is equally distinguished by an unusually sharp angle which produces a sloping upper stroke, not dissimilar to the פ of the Mesha inscription¹ on the one hand, and to the same letter on a sixth-century B.C. seal on the other.²

The ט is of a rare occurrence on seals and its place is marked by a gap on all tables of alphabets.³ As far as I am aware, the only two seals containing the letter ט are those of אדנפלט⁴ and שפטיהו.⁵ While the שפטיהו seal shows the classical form consisting of a circle with a cross inside, the לאדנפלט seal has a ט quite similar to the one on our seal, i.e. an elongated oval with a short horizontal bar.⁶

The א presents no peculiarities but its two bars meeting at an angle and not running parallel are not inconsistent with an early date.

The ס, another letter of comparatively rare occurrence in ancient Hebrew epigraphy, though not as rare as the ט, has on our seal two horizontal bars instead of the usual three.⁷ Other occurrences of a *samekh* with two bars are on the לאסר seal from Megiddo,⁸ on the ... לקס seal,⁹ on a stamp from Tell ed-Duweir,¹⁰ and on one of the לקוסענול stamps from Tell el-Kheleife.¹¹

It must be admitted that the style of the lettering is not a safe criterion for the dating of seals, as may be gathered from a glance at the table in Diringer's *Iscrizioni*, and especially on that of Dussaud.¹² The forms depend to a certain degree on the material used and on the ability of the engraver. But even allowing for these limitations and for the fact that the number of well-dated seals is rather restricted, it seems fairly certain that our seal may be dated on epigraphic grounds to the eighth century B.C.

One may assume *a priori* that a seal of such fine material and workmanship belongs to a time of prosperity in which the owner had the peace of mind and the means to have

¹ Though the latter has a less sharp angle and a slightly more curved tail.

² Seal of אמץ הספר, cf. Diringer, *Iscrizioni*, Pl. XXI, 11, and p. 235. Diringer quotes Sayce who affirms that the forms of the letters point to a date in the ninth to eighth centuries B.C., and he himself adds that they are 'palace Hebrew'. In my opinion, however, the seal must be attributed to the Neo-Babylonian period, as shown by the attitude of the priests, their long robes, headgear, &c.

³ e.g. Dussaud, in *Syria*, 1925, p. 335; and Diringer, *Iscrizioni*, Pls. XXIX–XXX.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 254.

⁵ *PEQ*, 1937, p. 240, Pl. VIII; *ibid.* 1941, p. 103.

⁶ *ASOR*, Vols. II–III, 1923, p. 104, dated by Torrey to the seventh century B.C.

⁷ The following note is contributed by Mr. P. Kahane of the Palestine Archaeological Museum: 'Another ך with two bars instead of the usual three is found on an ivory fragment from Ahab's Palace at Samaria (P.A.M. No. 35. 2547). The drawing on p. 7. Fig. 1, of Crowfoot–Sukenik, *Early Ivories from Samaria*, erroneously has three bars; what seems to have been taken as a third bar (see photo *ibid.* Pl. XXV, 12) is in reality some white matter adhering to the fragment.'

'One may perhaps venture to assume a relation between the ך with two bars and the last sign of the inscription on the bronze dagger from Tell ed-Duweir (P.A.M. No. 34. 2791, cf. *PEQ*, Oct., 1937, Pl. VIII, 1), though the latter belongs to the Middle Bronze Age. If the sign on the dagger is really a ך as is now generally assumed, then the form with two bars would seem to be a primary one.'

⁸ This is not visible on the current reproduction, but cf. Diringer, *Iscrizioni*, p. 169.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 250.

¹⁰ Diringer, *PEQ*, April 1941, Pl. IV, 8.

¹¹ Glueck, in *ASOR*, No. 72, Fig. 3, No. 9, and p. 12: 'To judge from the level the *Qws'nl* stamps were found in they belong to the eighth century B.C.' They are dated by Albright on epigraphic grounds to the seventh century. (*Ibid.*, No. 71, p. 18.)

¹² *Syria*, 1925, p. 335.

the seal made. Though many such occasions can be visualized in the course of Samaria's history, it seems most likely that the seal belongs to the pre-destruction phase, i.e. to the time before 721 B.C. An additional argument in favour of this assumption may be found in the fact that the Egyptian attributes of the griffin and especially the Egyptian name of the owner of the seal presuppose a time when the general policy of the kingdom of Israel leant towards Egypt, a tendency which was forcibly ended in 721 B.C. with the occupation of the town by the Assyrians.

The last point to be considered is the question who or what was the owner of the seal. Judging by the fine execution of the design, in a hard semi-precious stone, the owner was certainly a person of rank, perhaps an official. He bears, as we have seen, an Egyptian name transliterated in Hebrew letters, a rarity in Hebrew seals. One explanation might be that he was an Egyptian residing in Samaria in some private capacity, or employed at the court of one of the Israelite kings, like other Egyptians who are said to have served at the courts of David and Solomon.¹

I am, however, inclined to infer that the owner of the seal was an Israelite. As a matter of fact there was an Israelite by the name of *Pz-di-št*; his name is inscribed on a small statuette originating from the Delta² which Chassinat is inclined to date to the XXIInd or XXVIth Dynasty. The name of his father  *ꜥj* is followed by the club hieroglyph which serves as a determinative for foreigners, and is identified by Ranke³ with the Hebrew name עִפִּי of Jeremiah xl, 8. This *Pz-di-št*, son of the Israelite עִפִּי, bears the title of  or 'envoy to' (or 'of') 'Canaan'.

Furthermore, we have seen that the name was not only used by Jews in Egypt but it was borne by Semites in Babylonia, Assyria, and Phoenicia as well. It may very well have been adopted by an Israelite, especially if we remember that the use of such Egyptian names as Pinehas, Pashhur, Hophni, Asir, or the hybrid name Putiel, gave sanction for the admission of פִּטְּוּס (*Ptšs*) into the Hebrew onomasticon.

I. BEN-DOR.

¹ Cf. de Vaux, 'Titres et fonctionnaires égyptiens à la cour de David et de Salomon', in *Revue Biblique*, 1939, pp. 394-405. I owe this reference to the kindness of Dr. B. Maisler.

² Chassinat, 'Un interprète égyptien pour les pays chananéens', in *BIFAO*, Vol. I, pp. 98-100. I have to thank Mr. B. Grdseloff for this reference.

³ *Ägyptische Personennamen*, p. 60, No. 11.

NEWLY DISCOVERED LATIN AND GREEK INSCRIPTIONS

THE ultimate division of the Roman Empire into a Latin West and a Greek East was effectively, if unofficially, anticipated in epigraphical matters from the very beginning. Palestine was naturally included in the Eastern part, and so Latin inscriptions are somewhat uncommon here. This applies, however, to a lesser extent to inscriptions relating to the armed forces or on milestones. In the army Latin remained the language of command and administration throughout the empire; while the Roman road system was very closely connected with military policy. On the other hand Latin inscriptions relating to the civilian population are very rare. They consequently are the more valuable evidence as to the extent and degree of penetration of specifically Roman (as distinct from Greek) influences. In the course of the last few years a series of Latin inscriptions has come to light, including several of civilian character. Twenty-four of these are published here, arranged under the three main headings of (A) civil, (B) military, and (C) milestone inscriptions. Two Greek inscriptions closely associated with Latin are also included.

A. Civil

1. From an orange-grove in the vicinity of Yibna (ancient Iamnia or Yavneh) (see map, p. 104). Acquired for the Palestine Archaeological Museum upon information kindly supplied by Mr. J. Kaplan, C.E. Inv. No. 43. 21. Pl. XXV, 1.

Part of moulded rest of a sarcophagus in form of a κλινή; hard limestone, inscribed on the outer curve, 84 by 32.5 by 95 cm.; inscribed area 48 by 21 cm. Three well-spaced lines with intervals of 3.5 to 5 cm. Height of letters in first line 5.5, in second 5, in third 4.5 cm. Letters well shaped; words separated by small wedges.

IVLIA> GRATA
TI> IVLII> AVG>L>
MELLONTIS> PROC>

Julia Grata
Ti(berii) Julii Aug(usti) l(iberti)
Mellontis proc(uratoris) (filia)

1. 1. In accordance with Roman custom the deceased woman had no praenomen; the nomen corresponds to that of her father (see below). The cognomen Grata is common enough,¹ but in this particular case might perhaps go back to Valerius Gratus, procurator of Judaea in the years 15–26.

11. 2–3. The procurator is described as a former slave of the emperor called Mellon. This is either an original Greek name² or a Latin one derived from *mel*.³ He was freed by Tiberius after his adoption by Augustus (hence the 'Julius') in A.D. 4. As an imperial freedman he was charged with the administration of the emperor's estate at Iamnia. This Jewish town was willed by Herod to his sister Salome, together with Azotus and

¹ e.g. a Iulia Grata, *CIL*, III, 2390.

² Pauly-Wissowa, *RE*, s.v., usually written with one 'l'; cf. Preisigke, *Namenbuch*, s.v.

³ Cf. the goddess Mellona or Mellonia (Roscher's *Mythologie*, s.v.). Cf. also names like Mellonius (Dessau 2366), Melonius (*ibid.* 7093; *CIL*, VII, 632), Mellarius (*CIL*, VIII, 5970), Melito (*CIL*, VI, 22349), Mellitus (another freedman) (*CIL*, XIV, 767 bis).

Phasaelis.¹ Salome left her estate to the empress Livia.² After Livia's death these towns were absorbed in the possessions of her son Tiberius. The existence of an Imperial procurator of Iamnia is already attested by Josephus,³ and is further confirmed by the present inscription.

It may be assumed that the deceased was the daughter of the procurator, as the word *uxor* or *mater* would be usually added;⁴ the identity of the nomen (Julius-Julia) also supports this view.

The inscription is certainly later than the death of Livia (A.D. 29) when the estates passed under imperial administration. It is earlier than the death of Tiberius (A.D. 37), as he is called Augustus without any additions. We can narrow this gap still further down if we take into account that Herennius Capito was procurator of Iamnia at the end of Tiberius' reign,⁵ when Herod Agrippa (I) was on his way to Rome. Whether this voyage is dated A.D. 35⁶ or A.D. 31,⁷ it must in any case be later than this inscription, because at that date Capito was already procurator of Iamnia.

2. Found by Mr. E. Levy of Nahariya (see map, p. 101) at the east margin of a Roman road running 500 m. west of the present highway connecting Acre and Ras en-Naqla. Now in the Palestine Archaeological Museum, Inv. No. 43. 86.⁸ Pl. XXV, 2.

Slab of very friable sandstone (95 by 28 by 20 cm.) with a rounded top. Inscription in a recessed panel (36 by 23 cm.), 5 cm. below surface of stone. Eight lines varying from 3 to 3.5 cm. in height. The letters are shallow and much damaged, especially in l. 5. N measures 3.5 by 2.5 cm. Dots are used as abbreviation marks only. The ligature NE appears twice, but no other. The cutting is careless and the surface of the stone is much weathered.

IMP • NER	<i>Imp(eratori) Ner(oni)</i>
CAESARI	<i>Caesari</i>
COL • PTOΛ •	<i>Col(onia) Ptol(emais)</i>
VETER •	<i>Veter(anorum)</i>
VICI	<i>Vici</i>
NEA CÔM	<i>Nea Com(e)</i>
ET	<i>et</i>
GEDRV	<i>Gedru</i>

The inscription is clearly connected with the construction of the Roman road from Antioch, the *caput viae*, to Ptolemais. This road, the first made by the Romans in

¹ *Ant.* XVII, 8, 1; *Bj*, II, 9, 1.

² *Ant.* XVIII, 2, 2; *Bj*, II, 9, 1.

³ *Ant.* XVIII, 6, 3.

⁴ Cf. Cagnat, *Cours d'épigraphie latine*⁴, p. 60, n. 1. In Chabot's Index to Waddington's *Inscriptions* (p. 16) *filia* does not occur, while *coniux*, *mater*, and *uxor* appear several times; the expression of filiation by the genitive is the rule in Greek inscriptions.

⁵ *Ibid.* The alternative assumption that Mellon succeeded Capito is much less probable considering the short interval between the voyage of Agrippa and the death of Tiberius.

⁶ This is the common view, cf. Schürer, *Gesch. d. jüd. Volkes*, I⁴, p. 551.

⁷ Thus Wieseler, ap. Schürer, *loc. cit.*, n. 7.

⁸ Reported by B. Maisler, *BjPES*, V, p. 42; provisionally published in *QDAP*, VII, p. 56; cf. B. Maisler, *BjPES*, VI, p. 156.

Palestine, was built in A.D. 56,¹ shortly after Nero's accession and four years (at the latest) after Claudius's foundation of a new colony at Ptolemais.² The present stone is not, however, a milestone. Its shape is quite unlike any milestone and the inscription differs both in form and in contents from the official type. We have here rather a private dedication set up in honour of the young emperor. The informal style, without the *Augustus* and the other official designation, supports this view.

The inscription is dedicated by the *Colonia Ptolemais Veteranorum*, i.e. Acre, and two villages in its territory. The one, Nea Come, the 'new village', appears to have been a Greek foundation; its lack of a distinctive name suggests an identification with the similarly vague *Kefar 'Akko*, i.e. the 'village of Acre' of the Talmudic sources.³ Its location is unknown.⁴ The other place, Gedru, appears in the Talmud as גדרו⁵ and corresponds to the Kh. Jidru⁶ between Haifa and Acre. The Latin form occurs here for the first time.

The colony and the *vici* (one of them, Gedru, as far distant as 21 km. from the site) laboured in conjunction on the construction of the road which was to join their territory with the capital of the Roman Orient.

3. Found at the 'Caravan Oak' near Kefar Ata, south-east of Acre.⁷ Acquired by the Palestine Archaeological Museum upon information kindly supplied by Mr. Moller, Director of the Ata Textile Co. Ltd. Inv. No. 43. 92. Pl. XXVI, 3.

Thick slab of limestone, 76 by 48 cm., 18 cm. thick. Top rounded. Smoothed in front by later use, probably as millstone or door-sill.

Two lines of one word each, letters 10 cm. high, broad and deeply cut, nearly square in shape (N = 7 cm. sq.).

PAGO
VICINAL (i)

The interest of this inscription lies first of all in the evidence it affords for the spread of Roman terms of administration in their Latin form to Palestine, at least to the vicinity of Acre. This tendency may well be connected with the establishment of the *colonia veteranorum* referred to in the previous inscription.

The term *pagus* itself is the Latin equivalent of τοπαρχία or νομός.⁸ The existence of toparchies as administrative subdivisions is attested by Josephus for Judaea.⁹ In Josephus, however, they appear as districts of considerable size; three, two, or even one of such toparchies made up the territory of a city.¹⁰ It seems obvious that the territory of Ptolemais-Acre was subdivided into *pagi* from an early date.

¹ Thomsen, *ZDPV*, 1917, p. 18, No. 9a₂: Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus trib. pot. II, Cos. design. II. viam ab Antiochea munivit(?) ad novam coloniam Ptolemaida m.p. CCXXXIII.

² Pliny, *H.N.*, V, 75, and coins (Hill, *BMC, Coins, Phoenicia*, p. lxxxii f.). The veterans were drawn from legions numbered III, VI, X, XII; the foundation of the colony falls between 52 and 54 (Hill, *loc. cit.*).

³ Cf. Avi-Yonah, *Map of Roman Palestine, QDAP*, V, p. 7.

⁴ It cannot be the problematical Caphareccho of Josephus (B. II. 20, 6), because that place must be somewhere in the Galilean mountains between Iaphia and Iotapata. Tell el Fukhkhar has been suggested on *M. Rom. Pal.*, *loc. cit.* Cf. map, p. 101.

⁵ *M. Rom. Pal.*, p. 7.

⁶ See map, p. 101.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Marquardt, *Hdb.* IV, 1, pp. 4 ff.

⁹ *Bj*, III, 3, 5; cf. Pliny, *H.N.*, V, 14, 70.

¹⁰ The territory of Nicopolis (Emmaus) consisted of one toparchy, Diospolis (Lydda) had two, Aelia Capitolina (Jerusalem) three; cf. *Map of Roman Palestine*.

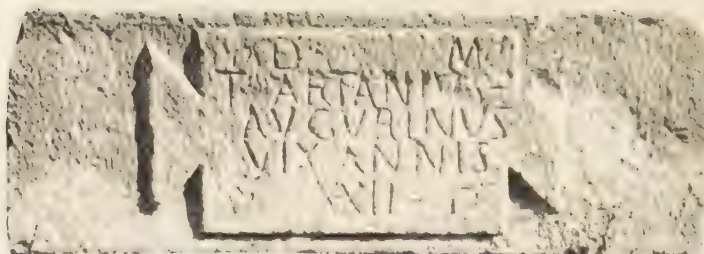


Scale 2 : 1

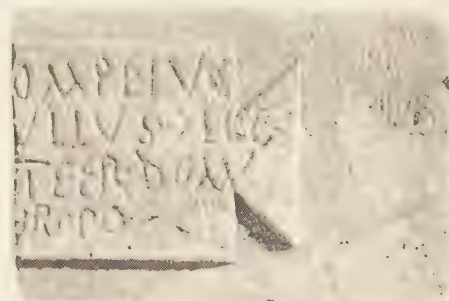
HEBREW SEAL FROM SAMARIA



LATIN INSCRIPTIONS

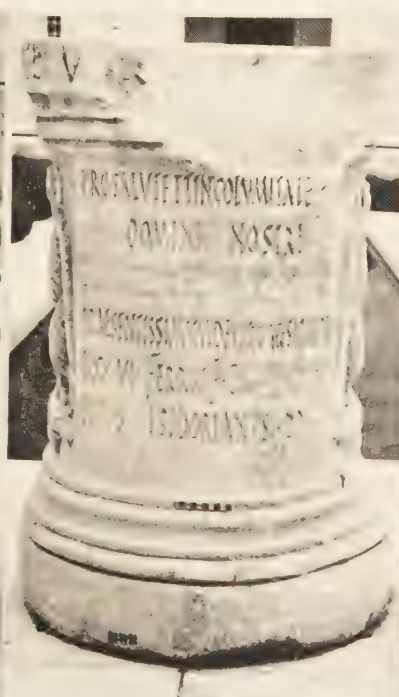


5



7

3



6

LATIN INSCRIPTIONS

As regards the interpretation of this inscription, we can hardly take *vicinalis* in its usual sense as 'neighbouring'. We must derive it directly from *vicus*, the normal subdivision of a town or a *pagus*. Each *pagus* or *vicus* has, however, a special name, whereas the *pagus vicinalis* is clearly general. The existence of *vici* in the territory of Acre is also attested by the previous inscription. It seems best to assume that the *pagus vicinalis* is here opposed to a *pagus urbanus*,¹ i.e. that all the villages in the country-side of Acre were grouped into one single *pagus*.

The short form of this inscription and the use of the dative seem to exclude the idea of a boundary stone.² It must therefore be meant as a dedication to the personification of the *pagus*. The worship of the Egyptian νομός (the, at least, verbal, equivalent of a *pagus*) is well attested,³ and there is at least one inscription dedicated to a *pagus* in Gaul.⁴ The establishment of a local cult of the *pagus* may be another innovation due to the introduction by the veterans of Claudius of Roman customs and beliefs into Palestine. On the other hand the aniconic character of the stone may have been a slight concession to the local prejudices of a Jewish country-side.⁵

4. A slab of hard, reddish *mizzi*, 46 by 29.5 cm. It was brought to the Palestine Archaeological Museum (Inv. No. 43. 8), upon the report of Salih el Ahmad, from 'Arrabat el Battuf in Galilee (Garaba of Josephus,⁶ 'Arab ('Arraba) in Jewish⁷ sources). The inscription is reported to have been found built into the end of a rock-cut grave in a burial-chamber south of the village. A *tabula ansata*, 33 by 29 m., projects 1 cm. from the surface of the slab. It has an inscription in four lines, the capitals in the first two lines measuring 6 cm., the letters in the other two lines 4.5 cm. The letters are elongated (N = 4.5 by 2.5 cm.). The stone-cutter misjudged the length of the third line and had to finish his text in smaller letters on the surface of the *ansa*. Three different kinds of abbreviation marks are used in this inscription: hederæ in the first line, wedges at the end of l. 2 and after SVAE in l. 4; elsewhere dots. Words not abbreviated are not marked at the end, except the SVAE mentioned above. The number XVIII has a horizontal line above. Pl. XXV, 4.

DϞ MϞ
KAPITOLINAE VIX>
AN · XVIII · C · CAS · AQ^{VILA}
VXORI SVAE> B · M

D(is) M(anibus)
Kapitolinae vix(it)
an(nis) XVIII C(aius) Cas(sius) Aquila
uxori suae b(ene) m(erenti)

C. Cassius Aquila is a good Roman name.⁸ Capitolina is also fairly common, especially

¹ The χωρὰ of Ptolemais is mentioned as early as 1 Mac. x. 39; a *pagus urbanus* appears in Italy, *CIL*, IX, 2984.

² For the usual formulae on such stones see Cagnat, *Cours d'épigr. lat.*, pp. 276 ff.

³ Roscher, *Lexikon d. gr. u. röm. Mythol.*, II, 2, cols. 2105–8.

⁴ *Ibid.*, col. 2132: Num(ini) Aug(usti) deo Apollini Pago Vennecti proscaenium L. Magius Secundus dono de suo dedit.

⁵ The existence of Jewish villages and land-holdings in the territory of Acre is well attested by the discussions in the Mishna and Gemara concerning the extension of various legal duties (e.g. the Sabbatic year) to the territory of Acre; cf. *inter alia* *Jerusalem Talmud*, Shebiith, 36, 2–7b.

⁶ BJ. II, 21, 7. See map, p. 101.

⁷ *Mishna, Sabbath* XVI, 7.

⁸ Cf. the Q. Cassius Aquila of Doclea (Dalmatia), *CIL*, III, 8287.

in Asia Minor, Egypt, Africa, and Rome,¹ where it refers, of course, to the Jupiter Capitolinus. Under the influence of Greek it is written with a K even in Latin inscriptions.² A connexion of this name with the colony of Aelia Capitolina is possible but cannot be assumed.

The inscription can only be dated on internal evidence. The letters are elongated; C, L, P, and S show forms which became common after A.D. 150; but since K, M, N, and R still have their earlier forms, the inscription cannot be much later than the middle of the second century.

The question of the date is connected with another problem: what had a Roman to do in this remote Galilaean townlet? He was not a common soldier, because as such he would not be allowed to have a legitimate wife; neither was he an officer, for this would most likely be mentioned. He can hardly have been a traveller, for the place is far from any major road, and the body of a stranger would probably have been removed to a permanent burial place. A tomb so carefully prepared as this was more likely to have been intended for a resident. We must therefore assume that Aquila was more or less permanently settled in 'Arraba. We are thus led to the conclusion that he was connected with the administration of the imperial estate in the plain of Asochis,³ now the Sahl el Battuf. This fertile plain was already a foreign estate in Ptolemaic times,⁴ and appears to have passed down the centuries from one ruler of Palestine to another. 'Arraba was an administrative centre after the Jewish war.⁵ Aquila may therefore have been one of the Roman settlers or administrators, who cultivated lands expropriated from their Jewish owners after the destruction of Jerusalem, and who seem to have been especially numerous in Galilee.⁶ His wife was possibly an Oriental Greek, perhaps a native of Jerusalem.

5. Tombstone found in February 1941 in a gully to the south of the present town of Tiberias. Possibly re-used in the town-wall of basalt blocks visible in the gully.⁷ Now in the Palestine Archaeological Museum, Inv. No. 43. 22. Found and reported by Mr. G. Landau, C.E., Municipal Engineer, Tiberias. Pl. XXVI, 5.

Basalt block 93 by 34 cm., 46 thick. On one face *tabula ansata*, 43 by 28.5 cm. The *ansae* are 8 cm. in width.

Five lines, each 5 cm. in height. Well cut rectangular letters. N = 4 by 5 cm. Hederae in the four corners, dots used as abbreviation marks, dashes at the end of ll. 2 and 5.

ϕD	Mϕ	<i>D(is) M(anibus)</i>
T • ARTANIVS—		<i>T(itus) Artanius</i>
AVGVRI NVS		<i>Augurinus</i>
VIX • ANNIS		<i>vix(it) annis</i>
ϕ XXII— ϕ		<i>XXII</i>

¹ Groag-Stein, *Prosopographia Romana*, II, p. 98; Asia Minor: Patara (Lycia), *CIL*, III, 234; Africa: mulier honestissima Oeensis, Apuleius, *Apol. c.* 61; Dessau 2658; Rome: *CIL*, VI, 14388; VIII, 217; Dessau 7589, 8058, 8196; *CIG*, III, 6537. In Palestine cf. a Claudius Capitolinus (Savignac in *RB*, 1905, p. 93).

² e.g. *CIL*, III, 234.

³ Alt, *PfB*, XXXIII (1937), p. 88.

⁴ Pap. Zenon. See Alt, *loc. cit.*

⁵ See note 7 on p. 87 above.

⁶ Cf. the saying of R. Yohanan b. Zakay (y. Sab. XVI, 8): 'Galilee, Galilee, you hated the Torah, you will end labouring under the despoilers' (= *masiqin*, lit. oppressors, a technical term for those who had despoiled the lawful owners of their lands in consequence of the war).

⁷ Schumacher, *QSt.*, 1887, pp. 87-8.

In spite of its Persian sound the name Artanius occurs on Latin inscriptions in Dalmatia (a centurion Artanius Marcellus of Legio IX Valens, *CIL*, III, 6365 and 8490) and at Rome (M. Artanius Ateneus, *CIL*, VI, 12452); it is derived from *artus*, 'narrow'. A *collegium Artanorum* appears at Cremona (*CIL*, V, 4088).

This inscription resembles, in shape and material, No. 7 below (p. 91), although it is rather better cut. It may therefore refer to a soldier, though we have placed it, in the absence of evidence to that effect, in the civilian group.

The correct style of the lettering gives no direct clue to the date of the inscription. The name Augurinus was borne by several prominent personalities¹ most of whom lived in the second century. Assuming a certain lag in the descent of a name in the social scale, we may tentatively date No. 5 to the late second or early third century.

B. Military

(i) *Inscriptions relating to the Legio VI Ferrata*

6. Altar found in August 1941 at Kh. el Khazna, 2.5 km. NNW. of Lajjun, the ancient Legio, the camp of the 6th legion (see map, p. 101). Now in the Palestine Archaeological Museum, Inv. No. 41. 1081. Pl. XXVI, 6.

The altar, of white marble, is cylindrical in shape with a moulded base and top. It measures 1.05 m. in height and 67 cm. across the top. The inscribed upper edge measures 9 cm.; it is damaged (see below, p. 90 f.). A circular hollow (diam. *c.* 30 cm.) appears on the top surface with rust marks of an iron dowel in the centre. The hollow once probably contained a libation bowl. The height of the upper moulding is 18 cm.; that of the base including the plinth 27 cm. The sides are divided into four panels A, B, C, and D. The panels are 57 cm. high; A and C are 52 cm. and B and D 44 cm. wide. B and D show the usual Roman legionary eagle displayed with wings inverted, facing right, standing upon a thunderbolt and holding a wreath in its beak. C shows a winged Victory *en face*, standing on a globe, holding a wreath in her raised right hand and a tropaeum in her left.

Side A contains an inscription in six lines: the letters are 5-5.5 cm. high. Line 3 and 20 cm. at the end of line 5 have been erased. The lettering is high and narrow, varying in width from 2 to 5 cm. with the horizontal strokes slanting upwards. The spacing is good and brings out the important parts of the inscription; the shorter lines are well centred. Dots are used irregularly as word-dividers, dashes appear at the end of l. 1 and twice in l. 6.

PRO SALVTE ET INCOLVMITATE'
DOMINI NOSTRI
////////////////////
PRAESENTISSIMVM • DEVM • MAG • SARAPIDEM
LEG • VI • FERRAT • F • C • //////////////////
IVLIVS ISIDORIANVS' PP'

The erasures are so well done that no traces whatever remain of the original text.

We are therefore reduced to conjecture. The addition of the letters *f(idelis) c(onstans)* after the name of the legion at once points to a date after Septimius Severus.¹

The space in l. 3 was completely filled up to the length of l. 1, to judge from the length of the erasure. As this line contained the imperial name, the letters must have been at least as wide as those of the preceding line. There 12 letters with one interval (13 spaces in all) fill 28 cm.; the erasure is 49 cm. long, and therefore has room for 23 letters. The most likely group of letters to fill the line would be IMP • CAES • M • AVR • ANTONINI • AVG •

The erasure in the fifth line measures 20 cm. in length; the width of the remaining letters in this line corresponds to that in the line below and leaves space for 11 letters. Obviously what has been erased was a title of a legion derived from a fallen emperor, such as ANTONINIANA. The original text may therefore have read:

*Prosalute et incolumitate
domini nostri
(Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) M(arci) Aur(elii) Antonini Aug(usti))
praesentissimum deum mag(num) Sarapidem
Leg(io) VI Ferrat(a) F(idelis) C(onstans) (Antoniniana)
Iulius Isidorianus P(rimi) p(ilus).*

The name restored as proposed would fit either Caracallus or Heliogabalus. However, Caracallus' memory was never officially condemned.² There remains Heliogabalus. The erasure of the title *Antoniniana* supports this attribution: in the *Vita Elagabali*, 17, we read: *Nomen eius, id est, Antonini erasum est, senatu iubente*. There is evidence that this was often taken literally and only the word Antoninus was erased and the rest of the name left standing.³

Dedications to Sarapis on behalf of the emperor run into hundreds; they occur in almost all parts of the Roman empire. There is one built into the city wall of Jerusalem at the Zion Gate;⁴ the formula of our inscription occurs also on other public⁵ and private dedications.⁶

The primipilus who offers the altar on behalf of the legion has an Egyptian name, which occurs about five times in the papyri,⁷ but hardly ever elsewhere.

A second inscription, of big ornate letters (7 cm. high, 5–7 cm. wide) runs round the top of the altar. Owing to breaks only 19 signs (14 letters) have been preserved out of a possible 30–5. The words are divided by hederæ.

The extant letters are: <ISII< VERE< V ERE

¹ Ritterling in *PW, RE*, s.v. *legio*, col. 1593.

² Cases where the name of Caracallus was erased also occur, but this may have been due to the identity of his name and that of Heliogabalus.

³ Cf. *CIL*, III, 3637 (Pannonia inferior): . . Serapidi . . pro salute victoria et perpetuitate Imp. Caesaris M. Aureli /; see also *CIL*, VI, 2001.

⁴ Thomsen, *ZDPV*, 1920–1, No. 1: I.O.M. Sarapidi pro salute et victoria (of Trajan) vexillatio leg. III Cyren.

⁵ *CIL*, III, 7920: Sarapidi pro salute et incolumitate Imp.; cf. Dessau 372 (A.D. 175).

⁶ Dessau 4380: Invicto deo Sarapidi . . pro incolumitate sua . . arulam cum basi . . votum libens solvit (Rome).

⁷ Preisigke, *Namenbuch*, s.v. A freedman C. Iulius Isidorus occurs at Ostia, *CIL*, XIV, 1138.

The apparent repetition of the *vere* suggests an acclamation, cf. *Hist. Aug.* (ed. Hohl), p. 112:

'Te salvo salvi et securi sumus *vere*, *vere* modo *vere*, modo *digne*, modo *vere*, modo *libere*'; *ibid.*, p. 147:

'Que imperator *vere* nominis sui, *vere* Pertinax *vere* Severus'; *ibid.*, p. 296, '*vere* Parthicus *vere* Persicus'.

Such acclamations were chanted in choir by the assembled senate and people on the accession of a new emperor.¹

On the assumption outlined above the date of the inscription would fall within the reign of Heliogabalus (218–22); the acclamation and the general circumstances suggest the beginning of the reign, i.e. the winter 218/19 when the emperor tarried in the East.

7. Found at Tiberias. Broken basalt block, 59 (extant) by 39 cm., 11 cm. thick. Traces of mortar on the sides. In general this block resembles No. 5. It may come from the same cemetery and have been re-used in the same wall. P.A.M. Inv. No. 43. 27. Pl. XXVI, 7.

On the block a *tabula ansata* 30 by 29.5 cm., 1.5 cm. high.

Fragmentary inscription in four lines, measuring in height respectively 5.5, 5, 5, and 4 cm. The letters are rustic, with serifs and an upward slant of the horizontal strokes; the M resembles a double slanting ΛΛ. The F in l. 3 has been cut E by mistake. Dashes used as abbreviation marks in l. 3, once in ligature.

OMPEIVS
/LLVS>LEG
I EEß DOM/
/ROPO

.. P]ompeius
...]ullus (*centurio*) leg(ionis)
V]I (f)err(atae) dom(o)
E]uropo.

In l. 3 only one letter, the v before the l, is missing, hence the inscription is nearly complete. This suggests that the cognomen in l. 2 should be completed Tullus or Iullus. The recorded Homullus² or Catullus³ would not fit the space.

The Europos in l. 4 probably refers not to Dura-Europos but to its homonyms in Macedonia or Syria (Carchemish). The perpetuation of the nomen Pompeius would best agree with the latter, since it was Pompey who made Syria into a Roman province.

The absence of the letters F.C. after the name of the legion suggests a date before Septimius Severus;⁴ as the 6th legion was first garrisoned in Palestine after the suppression of Bar-Kokhba in A.D. 135, this inscription appears to date to the second half of the second century. Taken together with No. 5 it proves the Severan or post-Severan date of the Roman town-wall of Tiberias, in which both were incorporated.

(ii) *Inscriptions from a Roman Cemetery at Neapolis (Nablus)*

In December 1941 two Latin tombstones were found in the course of building operations on the lower slopes of Mt. Ebal, north-west of modern Nablus. In June 1942 another inscription was found on the same spot. These stones refer to three soldiers,

¹ On such acclamations in general, cf. Alföldi, *RM*, 1934, pp. 83–8.

² Dessau, *Prosopographia Imperialis Romana*, III, p. 66 (pp. bis leg. X Fret.).

³ Cf. Pompeia Catullina, *CIL*, III, 7131.

⁴ Cf. n. 1, p. 90 above.

each from a different unit. As Neapolis never figured among the known Roman garrison towns, we must assume that the three units mentioned (the Legio IV Flavia, a numerus Maurorum, and Palmyrene archers) took part in some military operation, probably a joint assault upon Mt. Garizim, in connexion with the support given by Neapolis to Pescennius Niger, Septimius Severus' Oriental rival to the throne.¹

8. Stele, limestone (P.A.M. Inv. No. 43. 89), surmounted by gable and acroteria, enclosed in hollow moulding. Top broken. Original height 1.66 m., width 63 cm., 27 cm. thick. Frame and moulding 6 cm. each. Wreath and lemniscus in relief on tympanum. Inscribed area 92 by 34 cm. Pl. XXVII, 8.

Ten lines, height of l. 1, 7.5 cm., l. 10, 12.5 cm. Others 4.5–4 cm. Well-cut broad and square script (square N). One ligature N in l. 8 caused by lack of space. Hederae as abbreviation marks in ll. 1, 2, 10; also at ends of ll. 7 and 9. Dot in l. 3.

D ◊ M
C ◊ VAL • ◊ C ◊ F ◊
AEMIL • LON
GINVS STOB
MIL LEG III FL
STIP XV VIX
ANN XXXV ◊
C VAL VALNS
FRATRI ◊
B ◊ M ◊ P

D(is) M(anibus)
C(aius) Val(erius) C(ai) F(ilius)
Aemil(ia tribu) Lon-
ginus Stob(i)
mil(es) leg(ionis) IIII Fl(aviae)
stip(endiorum) XV vix(it)
ann(is) XXXV
C(aius) Val(erius) Valens
Fratr(i)
B(ene) M(erenti) P(osuit)

The presence of a soldier of the IVth Flavian legion in Palestine has not been previously recorded. The legion was stationed from about A.D. 88 in Moesia (at Singidunum, i.e. Belgrade, after Hadrian's time) and remained there well into the fourth century.² The garrisoning of the legion in Moesia explains how it was recruited mainly from the adjoining interior province of Macedonia, including Stobi (at present Gradsko in Yugoslavia). The various designations of the deceased, and of his brother who put up the tombstone, are all derived from their city of origin. Stobi was from early times an *oppidum civium Romanorum*, belonging to the tribus Aemilia, and as such a proper recruiting ground for the legions. The nomen Valerius is very common in Macedonia and Moesia;³ one of the phylae of Stobi was called Valeria. Its early appearance here suggests that Saria was wrong in attributing the division of Stobi into phylae to Valerius Diocletianus⁴ on the strength of that name. Valerius Longinus and Valerius Valens are quite ordinary names.⁵

The use of the abbreviation FL instead of the earlier F(lavia) F(elix) puts this inscrip-

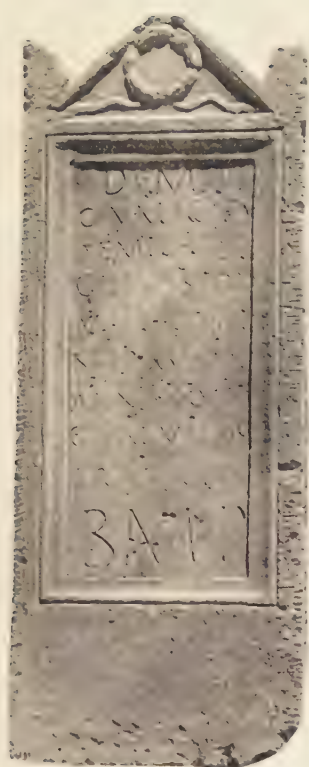
¹ *Hist. Aug.*, Vita Severi, 9, 5.

² Ritterling, *PW, RE* s.v. legio, col. 1543.

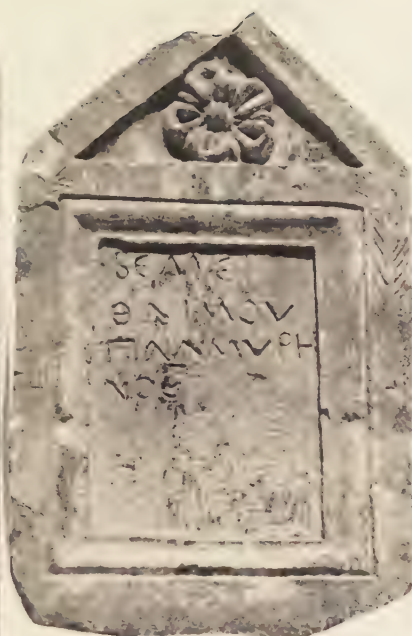
³ Cf. the C. Valerius Valens of Philippopolis (Dessau 2094, A.D. 227); another namesake at Nicopolis (*ibid.* 4060); a third one, a veteran of the XI Claudian, *Rev. Archéol.*, 1939, p. 263; cf. also the Valerius Macedo at Rome, *CIL*, VI, 28051.

⁴ *PW, RE*, s.v. Stobi, col. 50.

⁵ The names Valerius Longinus and Valerius Valens appear in the index to nearly every volume of the *CIL*.



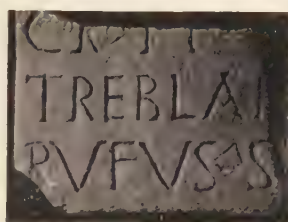
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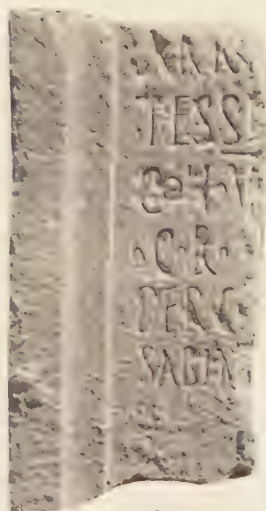
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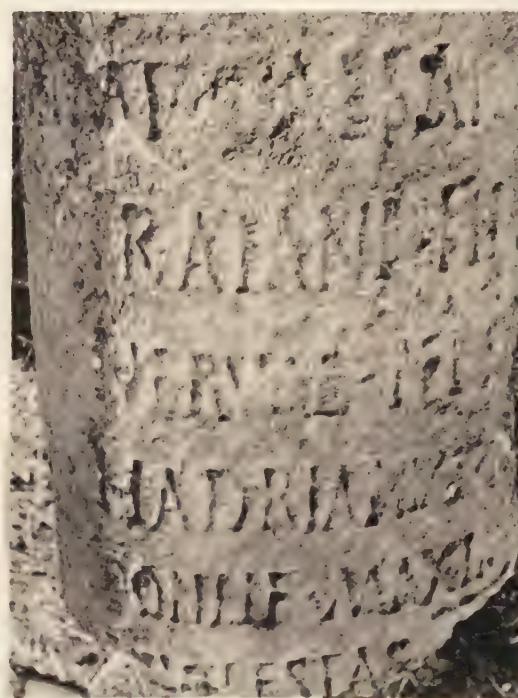
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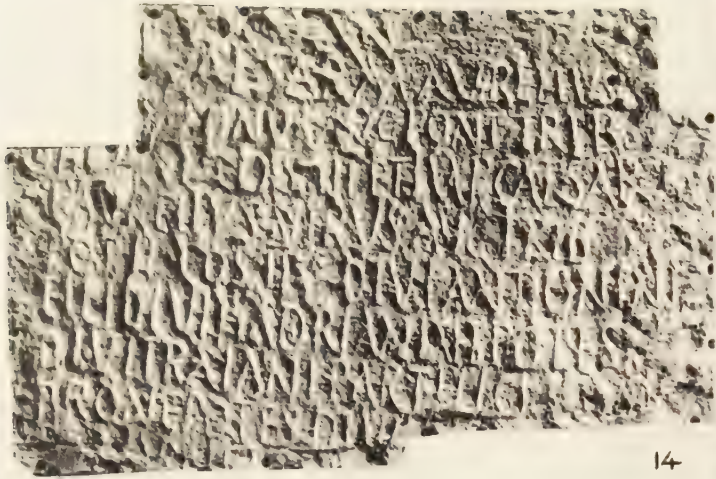


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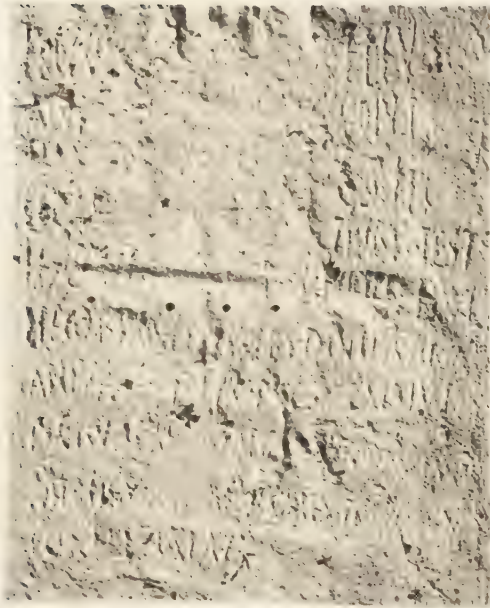
LATIN AND GREEK INSCRIPTIONS



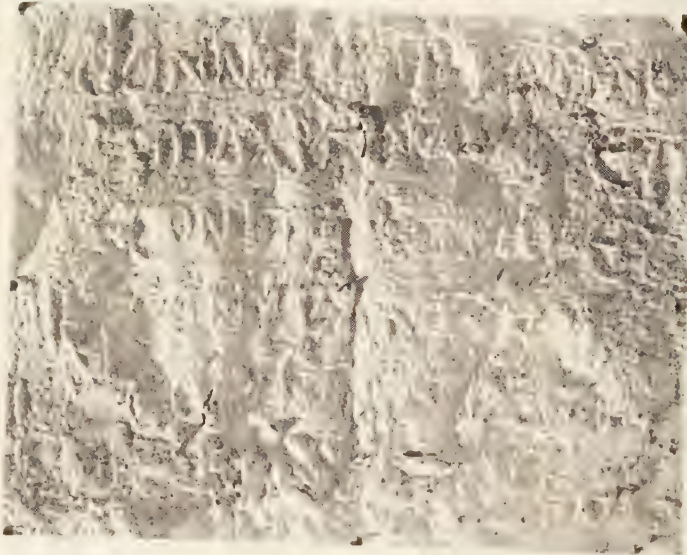
14



15



17



16

tion—according to Ritterling¹—in the period after Hadrian. Detachments of the IVth legion took part in the Parthian wars of the second, and certainly in those of the third century.² One might therefore be tempted to assign it to the period of the Parthian war of L. Verus (162–6) when detachments of the IVth legion were in the East. On the other hand, the upswinging horizontal stroke of the L and the closed P are more usual in the third century. It is therefore preferable, on epigraphical and historical grounds alike, to date it thirty years later,³ i.e. to the war between Severus and Niger.

9. Found near the preceding. P.A.M. Inv. No. 43. 90. Pl. XXVII, 9. Limestone.

A square moulded panel surmounted by a gable, all enclosed in a plain surround; on the tympanum a rosette in relief. Height to top of gable 90 cm.; width 60 cm.; thickness 18 cm. The frame measures 5.5 cm. in width, the moulding 4.5 cm.

The upper half of the panel contains the representation of a cavalryman spearing a fallen enemy, in a crude provincial style. Below, inscription in 4 lines; inscribed area measures 41 by 17 cm. The lines measure 3–3.5 cm. in height. Triangles pointing downwards are used as word-dividers, one wedge in l. 4; no dividers appear in l. 1: DIM and l. 3: VIXANNO. The inscription is full of spelling mistakes and singular forms of letters; the first A in l. 1 and the A in l. 3 lack the horizontal bar. x stands for s;⁴ the first E in eques has a lunar Greek form; in l. 2 Q stands for o; the last word ended originally in an N, subsequently corrected to v; in l. 3 + appears for x.

DI M◊AVGINDAI◊EQEX

NOMERQM◊MAV

RORVM◊VI+ ANNO

XXX>H◊BM

*Di(s) m(anibus) Augindai eq(u)e(s)*⁵

numero(ru)m Mau-

rorum vix(it) anno(s)

XXX h(aeres) b(ene) m(erenti)

The name Augindai resembles several native Numidian⁶ names, but is more likely to be a corruption of the Latin Augendus⁷ in the genitive.

The presence of Moorish cavalry units in Palestine is attested here for the first time. They remained for some centuries; according to the *notitia dignitatum*⁸ both Aelia (Jerusalem) and Areopolis had Moorish garrisons as late as the end of the fourth century A.D.

The date of the inscription can only be inferred from the style of writing; though it is very rustic compared with No. 8, the two may yet well be contemporary, to judge from the shape of the letters. Taken together they vividly illustrate the distance between

¹ *Loc. cit.*, col. 1544.

² *Ibid.*, col. 1545: *CIL*, III, 387; *CIL*, III, 195.

³ The Moesian legions joined Severus immediately after his accession (Fluss, *PW,RE*, s.v. Severus, col. 1950). Detachments from them would, for geographical reasons, be among the first to advance eastwards.

⁴ Cf. miles explendus, senextra (Dessau, III, p. 837), milex *CIL*, VIII, 2894, 5229. In Gerasa (Welles ap. Kraeling, *Gerasa*, No. 201, p. 447) occurs a similar mis-spelling of eques, viz. +QTES. For the + compare l. 3 of our inscription.

⁵ Mr. P. Kahane, of the Palestine Archaeological Museum, suggests the alternative reading: Eq(ues) ex numero Maurorum, &c.

⁶ Cf. M. Tuccius Augazo of Rudiae, Dessau 6472; Aumagaris, *CIL*, VIII, 2200; Auniga, *ibid.* 9348; cf. *PW,RE*, s.v. Auastomates, Aubizza, Audurus, Augala, Augarmi, Aulisua, Aulodes, Aurasion, &c.

⁷ *CIL*, VI, 12865 (Rome); especially numerous in Roman Africa, cf. VIII, 378, 1975, 3323, 4152 bis, 4458, 10663. As regards i for e and ai for i see indices to *CIL*, VIII (Africa) and III (Orient).

⁸ Ed. Seeck, p. 73, No. 21; p. 81, n. 17.

a well-to-do legionary soldier from a Roman colony in Macedonia and a poor auxiliary cavalryman from Mauretania.

10. Found near the preceding in June 1942.¹ P. A. M. Inv. No. 43. 88. Pl. XXVII, 10. Gabled limestone stele, with plain surround; height 69 cm., width 41 cm., thickness 14 cm. Rosette on relief on tympanum. Palm branches on frame to right and left. Below gable moulded panel (30 × 23 cm.), surround and moulding 5 cm. wide each.

Four lines in Greek. Letters 3–2.5 cm. high; square N.

ΒΕΛΛΕΙ	Βελλεῖ
ΘΑΙΜΟΝ	Θαίμου
ΠΑΛΜΥΡΗ	Παλμυρη
ΝΟC	νός

Bellei the son of Thaimos, the Palmyrene.

Of the two names, Thaimos is very common;² it represents the Semitic תַּיִם or תַּיְמָא. Bellei (Sem. בְּלִי) occurs at Dura-Europos³ and on a Christian tombstone at el Anderin.⁴ It replaces the more common Βηλαῖος⁵ and is closer to the Semitic prototype.

Numeri of Palmyrene archers⁶ are mentioned in Egypt, Dacia, and Numidia.⁷ This is their first occurrence in Palestine. Palmyrenes were not normally stationed in the provinces adjoining their homeland and their presence at Neapolis must be due to some special circumstance. The Palmyrene troops were specially numerous in Dacia, which province adhered at once to Septimius Severus; their participation in the Eastern campaign would be specially valuable from a military point of view.

(iii) *Sebastene Cohorts*

11. Found on the 13th September 1940 south of the Roman tomb No. 13 by Hassan Mohammed Ibrahim of Sabastiya village (see map, p. 104), who reported it to the Department. Inv. No. 45. 2. Pl. XXVII, 11.

Left-side fragment of a stele, enclosed in simple frame and moulding. Extant part 63 by 32 cm.; frame width 7 cm., moulding 6 cm. Inscribed area (extant) 60 by 9 cm.

Six lines, height 5.5–6.5 cm. High and narrow letters. Circles or a semicircle opening downwards are used as abbreviation marks (○, ◡).

ARR	<i>Arr[untianus</i>
TESSE	<i>tesse[rarius</i>
COH◡V	<i>coh(ortis) V [Augustae? or piae fidelis, &c.]</i>
CO RO	<i>c(ivium) R(omanorum) [Sebastenorum?</i>
PERC○	<i>per C(aium) [.</i>
SABIN	<i>Sabin[um</i>

¹ The inscription is published here, although written in Greek, because it forms part of the same military cemetery.

² Wuthnow, *Semit. Personennamen*, s.v. p. 52 f., quotes 41 examples.

³ F. Cumont, *Fouilles de Dura-Europos*, Paris, 1926, p. 391, No. 31.

⁴ Prentice, *Syria III B, Greek and Latin Inscriptions*, Leyden, 1922, No. 935, p. 57.

⁵ C. Belleius Claudianus, Belleius Ponticus (Rome, *CIL*, VI, 13537).

⁶ In theory, of course, this tombstone might be that of a civilian as the fact of military service is not mentioned specifically. However, the circumstances of the discovery and the similarity of style and arrangement with No. 9 preclude such a possibility.

⁷ Rowell in *PW, RE*, XVII, Nachträge, coll. 2549–2551.

The name in l. 1 stands immediately above the tesserarius and this suggests that it should be completed as the cognomen Arruntianus rather than the more common nomen Arruntius.¹

The number of the cohort stands at the edge of the break and might therefore in theory be anything between V and VIII. However, since there were only five cohorts of Sebastene soldiers raised by Herod² it seems most likely that the number is complete as it stands. These five cohorts took part in the Jewish war³ and were afterwards sent by Vespasian out of the country,⁴ apparently to Syria to judge from the two military diplomas of A.D. 88, which list the auxiliaries of the Syrian army at that date.⁵ In any case a cohort I Sebastenorum miliaria was recalled to Palestine (probably in connexion with the war of Bar-Kokhba) and appears among the garrison troops in 139.⁶

The shape of the letters suggests a date late in the second century. The honorary epithet *civium Romanorum* does not refer, as might be supposed, to the raising of Sebaste to a colony by Septimius Severus, but merely recalls some occasion on which all the soldiers of the cohort were granted citizenship *en bloc* as a recompense.⁷ To our knowledge there were at least two such occasions, both connected with the Jewish Wars, in which the Sebastenes appeared as fierce opponents of the Jews.

The suggested endings of ll. 3 and 4 are only tentative. The title Augusta is suggested by Schürer⁸ for one of the Sebastene cohorts stationed in Caesarea at the time of the apostle Paul (*Acts* xxvii, 1).

11 a. Fragment of a limestone tablet, 19 by 16 cm.; 4 cm. thick. Said to have been found at Sabastiya. Now in the collection of Mr. R. Jonas, Jerusalem.⁹ Pl. XXVII, 11 a.

Three lines extant, height of letters 3·5–4 cm.; almost square script (v = 3·5 cm. sq.). Three scratched lines 1 cm. apart can still be seen between each line, one corresponding to the bottom of one line, the other to the top of the next one; the central line served as a guide in laying-out the inscription. Hederae used as word-dividers.

C ◊ R ◊ M ◊ S [. . . .	[<i>miles cohortis</i>] <i>c(ivium) R(omanorum) m(iliariae) S[ebast(enorum).</i>
TREBLAN[. . .	<i>Treblan[us . . .</i>
RVFVS ◊ S[. . . .	<i>Rufus s[it t(ibi) t(erra) l(evis) (?)</i>

The s at the end of the first line is quite certain and can be completed as Sebastenorum on the basis of the find spot (if correctly reported) and the abbreviations c.r. and m. The approximate length of the original lines can be calculated if we consider that after the s in the first line there must have been at least five letters to complete the SEBAST

¹ Dessau 7788; *CIL*, III, 231 a-b, 619.

² *Ant.* XIX, 9, 1–2.

³ *Bj.* III, 4, 2.

⁴ *Ant.* XIX end.

⁵ *CIL*, XVI, 35 and Alföldi, *JRS*, 1939, pp. 28–9. (Cf. also *CIL*, III, 2916, 9984.)

⁶ Héron de Villefosse, *RB*, 1897, pp. 598–604.

⁷ Cf. Cichorius, *PW, RE*, I, col. 234.

⁸ *GJV*⁴, I, p. 462.

⁹ I have to thank Mr. Jonas for permission to study and publish this inscription.

followed by the praenomen of the deceased, since the next line starts with the nomen. The name Treblanus seems most likely a corruption of Trebullanus, of Trebula or Trebbia. It occurs once on a tombstone at Rome: *T. Treblanus Merzana HSE*.¹ The lettering of the inscription gives the following indications of date: The broken horizontal line of the A, the irregular F, and the shortened horizontal stroke of the L suggest the second century; the C and the E, at the same time retain their earlier forms; the script, therefore, suggests on the whole the first half of the second century. This agrees quite well with the fact, proved by the military diploma of A.D. 139 referred to above,² that a *cohors Sebastenorum miliaria* existed in Palestine at that time.

C. *Milestones*(i) *Texts of the Milestones*A. *Ptolemais-Diocaesarea Road*

12. Bab el Kharuq, 1.5 km. east of the Birwa-Shafa 'Amr road, on the 'Ibillin track. Pl. XXVII, 12.

Length 2.10 m., base 71 cm. Top diam. and side of base 70 cm.

IMP(erator) CAES(ar) M(arcus) AVR(elius)
 ANTONINVS PIVS
 AVG(ustus) TRIB(unicia) POT(estas) X[VI?] P(ontifex) M(aximus)
 [•••]IMP(erator) II CO(n)S(ul) IIII
 [•••••]
 [vias et pon]TES RESTIT(uit)
 A DIOCES(area)
 M(ilia) P(assuum) XIII

The formula 'vias et pontes restituit' is characteristic of Caracallus, who was consul for the fourth time in 213; in October of the same year he became imperator for the third time. The milestone dates therefore to January–October 213. The tribunicia potestas has accordingly to be completed as XVI.

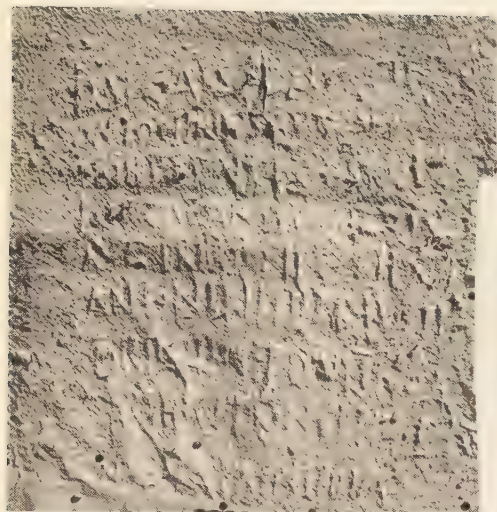
B. *Legio-Diocaesarea Road*

13. Sarid, found c. 400 m. SW. of the settlement. Now P.A.M., Inv. No. R. 665. Length of extant fragment 1 m., diam. 50 cm. Pl. XXVII, 13.

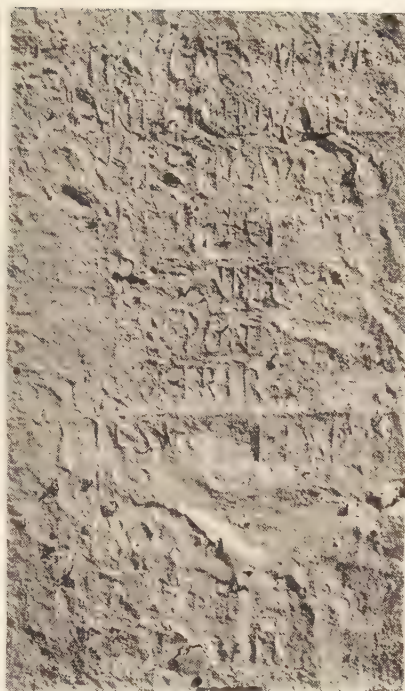
IMP(erator) CAESAR DIVI
 TRAIANI FIL(ius) • DIVI
 NERVAE NEPOS
 HADRIANVS AVG(ustus) •
 PONTIF(ex) • MAXIM(us) • TRIB(unicia) •
 POTESTAS ••••

¹ *CIL*, VI, 27607.

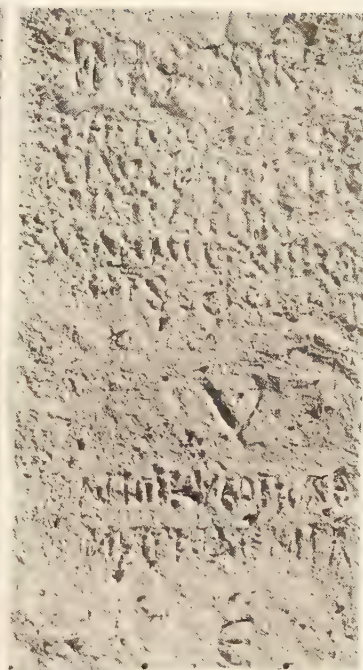
² Cf. note 6 on p. 95 above.



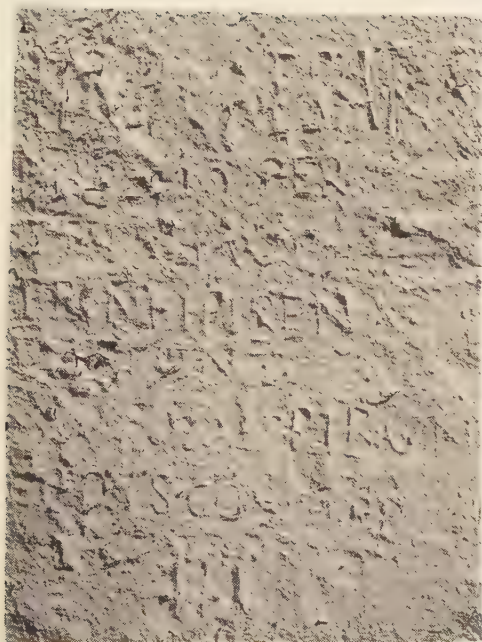
18



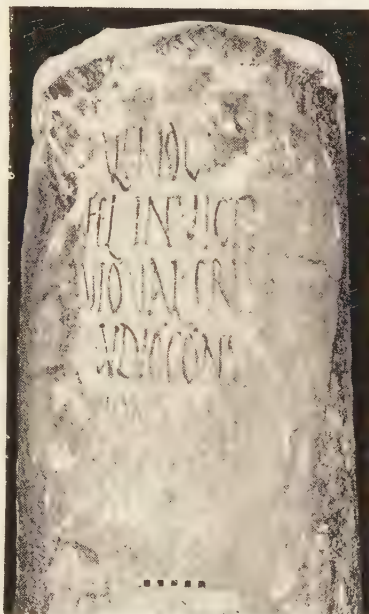
23



21



20



25



14. As preceding. Now at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Museum of Jewish Antiquities.¹

Length of extant fragment 0.83 m., diam. 0.50 m. Nine lines, 6–7.5 cm. high. N = 3.5–4.5 cm. Pl. XXVIII, 14.

[IMP(erator)] CAESAR M(arcus) AVRELIVS
[ANTO]NINVS AVG(ustus) PONT(ifex Maximus) TRIB(unicia)
POT(estas) XVI CO(n)S(ul) III ET IMP(erator) CAESAR
L(ucius) AVRELIVS VERVS AVG(ustus) TRIB(unicia)
POT(estas) II CO(n)S(ul) II DIVI ANTONINI /
FILI DIVI HADRIANI NEPOTES
DIVI TRAIANI PARTHICI
PRONEPOTES DIVI N[ERVAE]
ABNEPO[TES . . .]

15. Found c. 1½ km. SSW. of Sarid settlement. Now broken into two parts, one near the settlement, the other (with the inscription) c. 750 m. to SW. Over-all length 2.48 m.; diam. top 0.58, base 0.70; height of base 45 cm.

Unfortunately this stone has lain with its inscribed side to the weather and it is in consequence almost illegible. The external appearance of the inscription suggests a date in the reign of Caracallus. The VI at the base of the inscription shows very clearly, however. Pl. XXVIII, 15.

16. Sarid, fragment, at present near the Children's Home within the settlement. Pl. XXVIII, 16.

Dimensions: 1.46 m. in length, base length 0.46. Side of base 0.50, top diam. 0.45 m.

(a) Inscription almost effaced [IMP(eratori)] CAESARI
[TRI]BVN[ICIA POTESTAS]

(b) Secondary inscription of 6 engraved and 2–3 painted lines added on the smoothed back of the older inscription. The painted lines are now illegible. The engraved letters show still traces of red paint.

dd (= *Dominis*) nn (= *nostris*) FL(avio) CONSTANTINO
MAX(imo) P(io) F(elici) IN(victo) AVG(usto) ET
CONSTANTINO ET
CONSTANTIO ET
CONSTANTE
[NOBB(ilissimis) CAESS(aribus)]

Constans, the last of Constantine's sons to become Caesar, received the title in 333. Constantine I died in 337. The milestone was re-inscribed between these two dates.

¹ Prof. Sukenik was kind enough to allow me to study this inscription and to publish it; the photograph on Pl. XXVIII, 14, is made from a squeeze prepared by Mr. N. Avigad.

C. *Legio-Scythopolis Road*17. Shatta, among foundations of Arab village.¹

Limestone fragment, slightly moulded on top. Length 1.01 m.; diam. top 0.45.
Pl. XXVIII, 17.

IMP C[AES M A]VRELIVS
ANT[ONINVS AVG] PONT
MAX [TRIB POT XVI] COS III
[IMP CAES L AVR VERVS AVG] TRIB POTEST
II [COS II DIVI ANTO]NINI FILII DIVI
HADRIANI NEPOTES DIVI TRAI
ANI PARTHICI PRONEPOTES DIVI
NERVAE ABNEPOTES V
ΑΠΟ ΚΥΘΟΠΟΛΕΩC ΜΕΧΡΙ
ΩΔ(Η) ΜΙΑ Ε

A.D. 162.

18. *Ibid.* Limestone fragment, 0.88 m. in length, diam. top 0.50, bottom 0.52, moulding 0.05 m. high. Nine lines Pl. XXIX, 18.

IMP CAESAR M AVR[ELIVS]
ANTONINVS AVG [PONT MAX]
TRIB POT XVI COS [III]
IMP CAESAR L AVR VERVS
AVG TRIB POT II COS II DIVI
ANTONINI F DIVI HA
DRIANI N DIVI TRAIAN[I]
PARTHICI PRONEPOTES DIV[I]
NERVAE ABNEPOTES

A.D. 162.

19. *Ibid.* Limestone fragment, 0.62 m. in length, diam. 0.52. Top missing.

DIVI ANTO]NINI FIL(i)
DIVI HADRIANI NEP(otes) DIVI T[RA]
IANI PARTHICI PRON[EP(otes)
DIVI NERVAE ABNEP(otes)
ΑΠΟ ΚΥΘΟΠΟΛΕΩ[C]
ΜΕΧΡΙ ΩΔΕ . . .

A.D. 161-9.

¹ Mr. N. Zimbalist, Director of the Sturman House Regional Museum, 'Ein Harod, first reported these milestones and, accompanying me to Shatta, assisted in recording the stones, for which I wish to thank him.

20. *Ibid.* Limestone fragment, 1 m. long, moulding on top 0.005. Upper diam. 0.48, lower 0.45 m. Pl. XXIX, 20.

IMP CAESAR
P(*ublio*) HELVIO PER
TINACI AVG
PRINCIPI SENA
TVS PONT
MAX IMP TRIBVN
POTS COS II P(*atri*) P(*atriae*)
I I I

A.D. 193.

21. *Ibid.* Limestone fragment, length 1.62 m., diam. upper 0.43, lower 0.52. Moulding 5 cm. high. Pl. XXIX, 21.

IMP CAESARI
P HELVIO PERTINA
CI AVG PRINCIPI SE
NATUS PONT
MAX IMP TRIBV
POTS COS II
V
ΑΠΟ ΣΚΥΘΟΠΟΛΕ[ΩC
ΜΕΧΡΙ ΩΔΕ ΜΙΑ
Ε

A.D. 193.

22. *Ibid.* Limestone fragment, 0.75 m. long, upper diam. 0.46, lower 0.48. Moulding 5 cm. high.

IMP CAESAR
P HELVIO PERTI
NACI AVG PRIN
CIPI SENATVS PONT
MAX IMP TRIBVN
POTS CO[S . . .]

A.D. 193.

23. *Ibid.* Limestone fragment. 1.16 m. long, lower diam. 0.47, upper diam. 0.50. Pl. XXIX, 23.

IMP CAESAR M AVR
ANTONINVS PI
VS FELIX AVG
PARTHICVS MAX
BRITANNICVS
MAX PONTIFEX
MAX TRIB PO
TEST XVI IMP
II C[OS III PP]
PROC[O(n)s(*ul*) VIAS ET]
[PONTES REST]!TYIT

A.D. 212.

24. Small fragment:

ΙϚ ΙΝΔΣ (ΙΚΤΙΩΝΟΣ) ΙΕ (?)

Byzantine.

25. Tell Tumis. Found 50 m. E. of Tell, on the northern bank of the irrigation channel from Qanat el Qantara, May 1942. Now in the Palestine Archaeological Museum, Inv. No. R. 934. Pl. XXIX, 25.

Complete. Height 2.10 m., base 0.60 high, 0.57 long, top diam. 0.50.

(a) Inscription in red paint on plaster over the original engraved letters. Six lines extant, cursive capitals 9-11 cm. high.

[DD NN] (= *Dominis nostris*)
 [FLAVIO V]ALERIO CONSTANTINO
 [PI]O FEL(*ici*) • INVICT(o) A[V]G(*usto*)
 [ET F]LAVIO VAL(*erio*) • CRISP[O]
 [E]T FL(*avio*) CLAUDIO CONST[ANTINO]
 [ET FL(*avio*) IVLI]O CONSTANTIO
 [NOBILISSI]MIS CAESARI[BVS]

Constantius became Caesar in 324; Crispus was killed in 326; the inscription was set up between these years.

(b) Below (a) are visible the traces of another bilingual inscription:

IM[P • CAES •]
 S[.]
 PO[NT • MAX • T]RIB • [POT]
 [.]
 [.]
 AY[TOKPATΩP K]AICAP
 AC/[.]OYM
 MIOYCE[.]INAKÇ
 CE[. . .]YEYCEBOYC
 [.]
 [.]ΑΠΟ Ç
 ΚΥΘΟΠΟΛΕΩC ΜΕΧΡΙ
 ΩΔΕ ΜΕΙΛΙΑ
 A

(Septimius Severus
 A.D. 195-8?)

(ii) *Notes on the Milestones*

The fourteen new milestones listed above add the following facts to our knowledge of the historical geography of Palestine:

(a) The position of No. 12 (13 miles from Diocaesarea-Sepphoris) in relation to the previously published 10th milestone from Ptolemais-'Akko¹ proves that the boundary between the two cities (and consequently that between the provinces of Phoenicia and

¹ Saarisalo, *ἹΠΟΣ*, IX, p. 33, and Iliffe, *QDAP*, II, p. 120.

LATIN AND GREEK INSCRIPTIONS

Palaestina) here follows a somewhat different line from that shown in the 'Map of Roman Palestine'.¹

(b) The group of milestones at Sarid (Nos. 13-16), and a newly discovered stretch

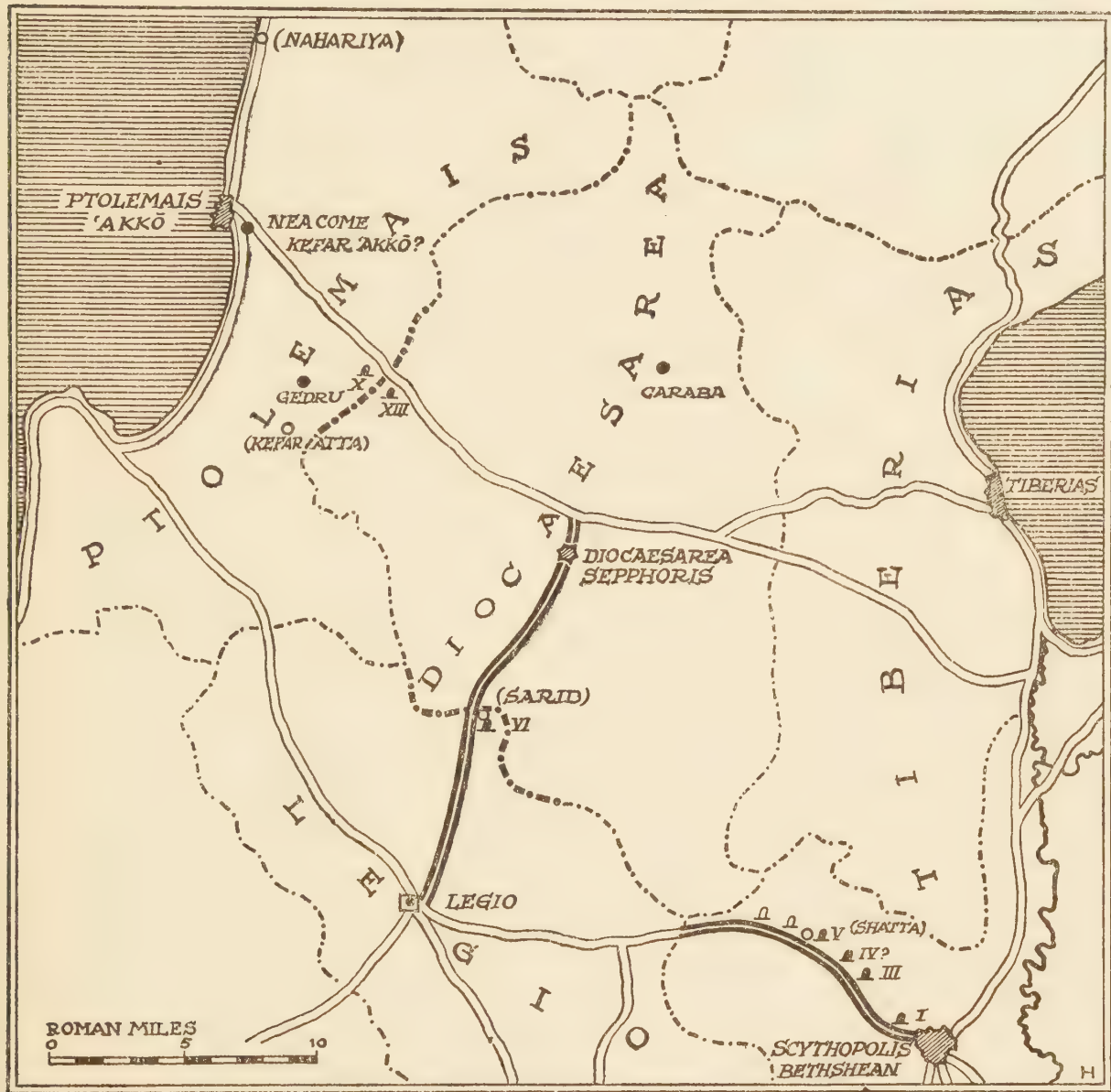


FIG. 1 (the names in brackets are modern)

of Roman road between Sarid and Kefar Barukh,² fill a 'missing link' in the known system of Roman communications in Northern Palestine. Two Roman roads running from west to east are so far known in that part of the country, the one connecting Ptolemais with Tiberias via Diocæsarea and the other skirting the foot of Mount Carmel along its northern extremity, via Legio-Lajjun and continuing to Scythopolis-Bethshean.

¹ *QDAP*, V, pp. 139-93; 2nd ed., 1940.

² Survey of Palestine, 1: 100,000 map, sheet IV, 168. 228.

Hitherto the only known north-south connexions between these two roads were the two roads following the sea-shore and the Jordan valley. The new discovery shows that there did exist, as was only reasonable to suppose, a direct north-south communication between the Galilean capital Sepphoris and the Roman garrison at Legio.

(c) The final VI on the illegible Sarid milestone No. 15 can only refer to the caput viae at Legio, as Sepphoris is too far away. It follows that the area round Sarid was part of the territory of Legio and here too the boundary must be redrawn.

(d) The milestones found at Tell Tumis and the anepigraphic stones found between 'Ein Harod and Qumiya and further to the east between Qumiya and Shatta suggest a realignment of the road from Legio to Scythopolis. The new line runs north of the hitherto accepted route west of Shatta, and south of it east of Shatta.

The following points of interest may also be noted as regards the milestones here published:

Of the stones found at Shatta only those marked V are in their proper position. The milestone of Pertinax marked III and the stones of M. Aurelius and Verus and of Pertinax with the number broken away must have been brought there from other spots along the road. The third set of stones of M. Aurelius Verus and of Pertinax should probably be assigned to the 4th mile.

The inscriptions of Hadrian, M. Aurelius, and Caracallus show by their use of the nominative that the roads were constructed or repaired by the state; on the other hand those of Pertinax and of Constantine and his sons are in the dative case, i.e. were dedicated by the local authorities to these emperors. The repair of the former roads can be related, in fact, to special warlike occasions: the roads of Hadrian, for example, relate to the war of Bar-Kokhba and the subsequent establishment of the VI Ferrata at Legio; again, Thomsen¹ notes not less that twenty-six milestones in Palestine dated in 162, obviously in connexion with road repairs caused by Verus' Parthian war (cf. Nos. 14, 17-19); finally there are thirty-six milestones of the years 212-14 (cf. Nos. 12, 15, 23), connected either with Caracallus' campaign in the East or with the general activity of road-repairs under that emperor.² The thirteen milestones dated in the reign of Pertinax³ (to which the three Nos. 20-2 should now be added) represent an astonishing outburst of reforming energy for a reign which only lasted three months.

The milestones put up in honour of Constantine and his sons are interesting as additional examples of the fourth-century habit of re-using old stones.⁴ No. 25 represents a case unique in Palestine of a milestone inscription plastered over and a new inscription painted on the plaster. The date (A.D. 324-6) suggests that the haste was due to the urgent necessity of affirming local loyalty to Constantine after his recent victory over Licinius and the latter's abdication. The same signs of haste appear in No. 16 where the inscription was completed in red paint.

The fragment No. 24 with the indiction date is certainly Byzantine and must represent part of the latest pre-Arab milestone so far found in Palestine. M. AVI-YONAH.

¹ Thomsen, *ZDPV*, 1917, p. 89.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 90-1; cf. H. M. D. Parker, *A History of the Roman World*, 139-337, pp. 116-17 and notes, pp. 332.

³ *ZDPV*, 1917, p. 90.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 50 f., Nos. 126-7.

EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN, 1940-2

Abu Ghosh (Qaryat el 'Inab)

(Benedictine Fathers in collaboration with the École Biblique et Archéologique Française; directed by R. P. R. de Vaux, O.P.)

IN 1941 a vaulted hall east of the medieval church was cleared. (Cf. *QDAP*, XI, p. 113.) In the course of 1944 the area between this church and the mosque on the one side and the modern monastery on the other was completely excavated; several soundings were also made south of the monastery.

Before the Crusades the whole of this area was occupied by an Arab caravanserai. It consisted of a rectangular court, surrounded by cloisters, which were covered by groined vaults on square piers. The entrance was on the north, facing the road from Jaffa to Jerusalem. On the east and west sides long halls ran parallel to the cloisters; in the south-east corner the building was extended to enclose another small courtyard and a row of rooms with groined vaults. At the same corner there was a staircase which led across a low arch to the upper story. On the south side another row of rooms runs parallel to the cloisters as far as the south-west corner, where there was probably a small mosque.

The water supply of the khan is of special interest. The spring which rises in the west (at present enclosed in the crypt of the church) seems first to have been received by a pool built against the west wall of the khan. From there a channel led to the centre of the yard, where it filled a small round basin, surmounted by a kiosk. From there the water flowed into a great reservoir outside the khan, against its east wall; another reservoir, at a lower level, possibly occupied the site of the present mosque. This was connected with a trough, the overflow of which passed into the drain that carried away the waste water of the caravanserai. Yet another cistern situated in the south-east corner of the khan was connected with the big exterior reservoir.

The whole complex is the 'Castle of Emmaus' mentioned by the earliest historians of the Crusades; it is also the monument described in the middle of the eleventh century by Nasir-i-Khusrau, who makes special note of its reservoirs. It was built apparently in the middle of the ninth century. Its discovery supplies a valuable link in the history of Syro-Palestinian khans and throws light on a particularly obscure period of Moslem architecture.

When, in 1141, the Knights Hospitallers occupied the site, they retained the general lay-out of the existing buildings, erecting their own structures in front of the khan; hardly anything remains visible of these to-day. They built their church over the western pool, against the cloisters of the khan. To ensure the discharge of the water they deepened considerably the outlet of the spring and turned it northwards. This put the old water system out of action, and the Crusaders then built the vaulted hall (excavated in 1941) over the external pool on the east, where they placed their bakery. The small internal cistern became a latrine and a cesspit.

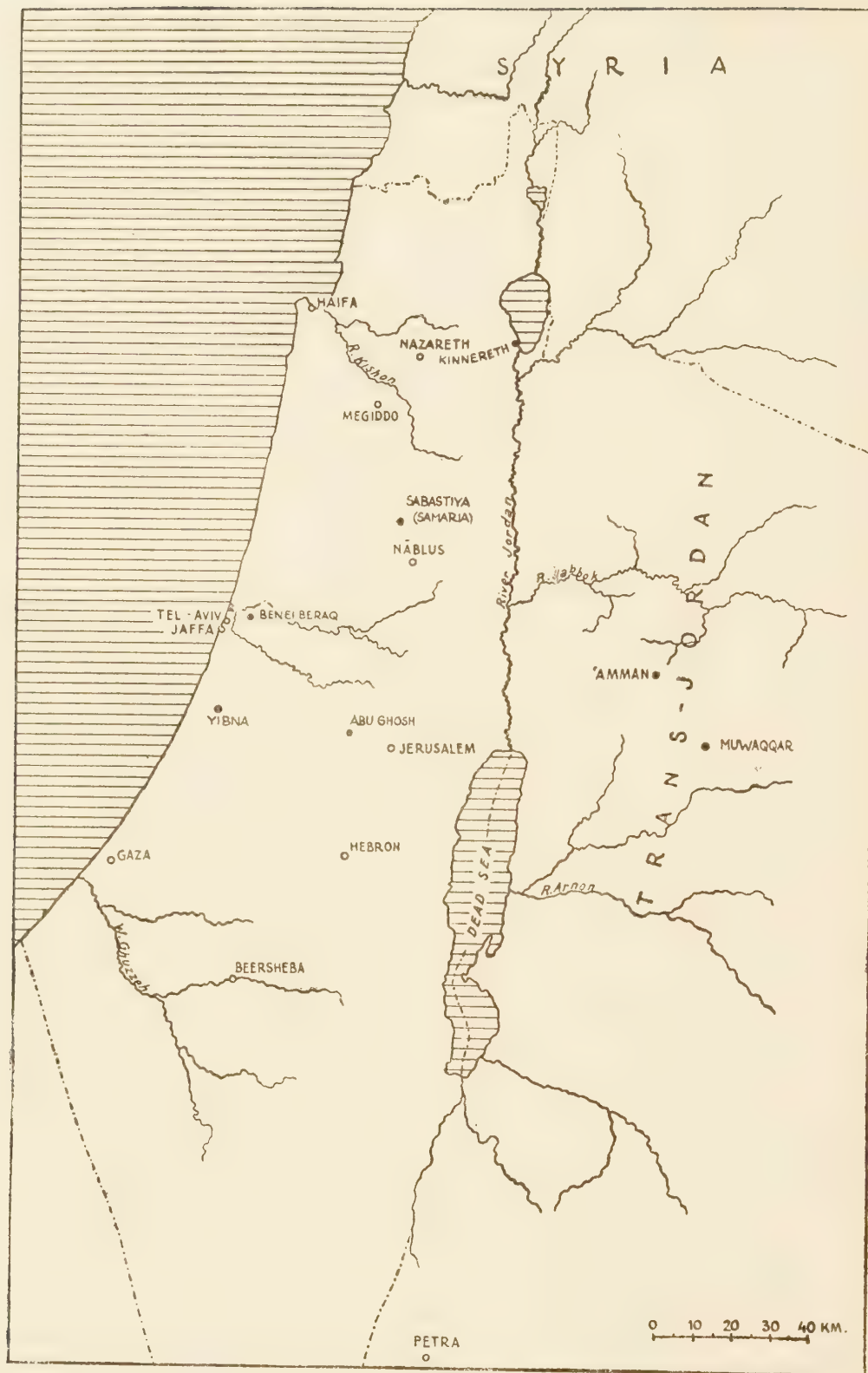


FIG. 1. Sites of excavation and finds shown thus ●

At the capture of Jerusalem in 1187 the Hospitallers had to leave Qaryat el 'Inab. After a period of abandonment and partial ruin, the khan was restored in the Mamluke period; the north cloister was closed and split up into several rooms and the vault of the great hall was reconstructed after its east wall had been doubled in thickness. It was probably at this time that the mosque was erected on its present site, in connexion with the khan.

Still later, at a period difficult to determine, a new conduit was installed. Starting from a spring rising to the south-west of the church, it passed right through the ruins and discharged at the mosque fountain. It is still in use. A cistern connected to a branch of the conduit in the yard of the old khan served to regulate the supply.

Though they have thrown light on the disposition and use of the buildings the excavations have been poor in small finds. Many fragments of pottery, however, were recovered, especially from the inner cistern, which give an important series of tenth-eleventh-century types.

'Amman

(Trans-Jordan Department of Antiquities; directed by Lankester Harding)

SINCE the article published in *QDAP*, XI, pp. 67 ff., two more tombs have been found in 'Amman in the same way, viz. while digging foundations for building. The first is on Jebel Jofeh, very near the tomb called A in the article referred to; the second at the foot of Jebel 'Amman el Jedid. (Cf. pp. 58 ff. of the present issue.)

The find on Jebel Jofeh is a shaft-grave rather than a tomb, with a single body which had been plundered either at or soon after the time of burial. The head had been detached, presumably to get at a necklace or gold ear-rings, and was found in fragments. The only objects found were three spindle flasks, one broken. The chief interest is in the method of sealing the grave, with six stone slabs set pent-roof-wise on ledges in the shaft and each end closed with a slab. Finally some mud, small stones, and soil were thrown in, but perhaps not to any great depth at the beginning, as the slab at the south end had been pulled away so that the robber could get in, and this could not have been done had the shaft, originally some 1.5 metres deep, been full of soil and stones. The whole arrangement is shown very clearly in the photographs and plan (Pl. XIX, 2, and Fig. 2). which make further description

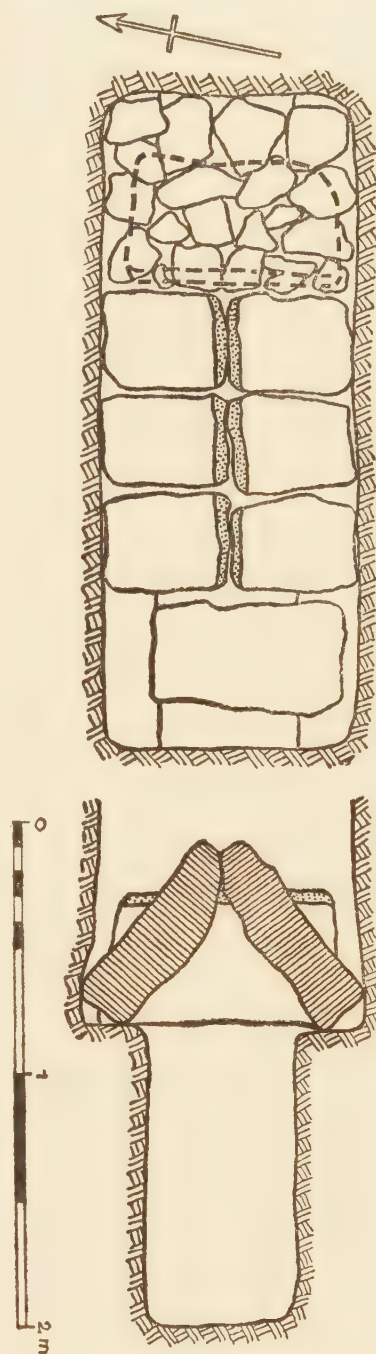


FIG. 2

unnecessary. On the evidence of the spindle flasks the date would appear to be about the first century B.C.

*Kinneret*¹

(Jewish Palestine Exploration Society; directed by Dr. B. Maisler).

EARLY in July 1940 members of the Kinneret Settlement came upon ancient remains while excavating an A.R.P. shelter. The clearance of the remains was undertaken by the Society on 22nd-29th July 1940. Excavation revealed a tomb-cave consisting of one room 3.25 m. by 1.90 m. with an antechamber roughly square in shape (2 m. by 2.10 m.). The cave was cut in soft rock not far below the surface of the soil: a single step led down from the antechamber to the main chamber of the tomb.

The roof of the cave had been destroyed long ago, but the furniture was well preserved beneath the debris, and the burials were intact.

Three burial layers were found in the main chamber, each with its own furniture, and separated from each other by a layer of white sand.

The majority of the bones showed signs of cremation; they lay in a heap without spacing between one burial and another. There can be no doubt that the Kinneret tomb represents a crematorium similar to that found by Macalister in cave 2 I at Gezer.

The contents show that all three layers belong to a single period, the middle of the Early Bronze Age (E. B. II, c. 2700 B.C.). The few finds made in the antechamber are contemporary. Over fifty nearly complete vessels were found. They include jars, jugs, platters, bowls, small vases, amphoriskoi, cups. Most of these are either burnished or covered by a red slip.

Of other small finds the most remarkable were a fine circular gold plaque and a carnelian bead encased (mounted) in gold strips. Altogether about 350 beads were found, of gold, bronze, jasper, crystal, marble, blue and burned faience, carnelian, &c., also a pear-shaped limestone mace-head and fragments of ornamental bone plaques.

It should be noted that no 'Khirbet Kerak ware' was found in the cave, although we must assume, as seems certain, that this was part of the necropolis of Beth Yerah (Kh. Karak), and that no great interval of time can separate the finds in the cave from the strata containing that ware in the tell. On the other hand, the pottery types of the cave are well represented amongst sherds picked up on the tell.

¹ A full account of the excavation was published in Hebrew in the *Bulletin of the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society*, Vol. X (1942), pp. 1-9, Fig. 1, Pls. I-II, 1.

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¹ Continued from Vol. XI, pp. 119-20. Owing to the present situation this bibliography cannot be exhaustive. It is hoped to publish a supplement as soon as circumstances permit.

INDEX

Reference is to pages. An asterisk (*) shows that the item is repeated on the page.

A

'Abdallah b. Sulaym, 70, 73-4.
 Abu Ghosh, excavations, 103-5.
 Acre (Ptolemais), 85-6.
 agate seal, 77.
 alabaster vases, 32*, 34, 37-8, 40.
 'Amman, Jebel Jofeh tomb, 105-6; Nabataean tomb, 58-62.
 Anastasius, 26-7.
 animal figurines, 39.
 ankh emblem, 37.
 Antinoe, silk from, 15 n. 3.
 Aqsa mosque, 3-4, 9 n. 1.
 Aquila, Caius Cassius, 87-8.
 'Arab, 87.
 archivolt, 3*.
 archway, ornamented, 6-8.
 'Arrabat el Battuf, Latin inscription, 87-8.
 Arruntianus, 94-5.
 Augindai, 93.
 Augurinus, Titus Artanius, 88-9.
 'Auja el Hafir, *see* Nessana.

B

Bab el Kharuq, milestone, 96.
 bakery, Hospitaller, 103.
 balustrades, stucco, 15.
 beads, 106.
 Bellei, 94.
 Benei Beraq, Chalcolithic necropolis, 43-57.
 bird, figurines, 39.
 blades, flint, 52, 54*.
 bones, animal, 33*, 34; human, 33-4, 45.
 bottles, alabaster, 37*.
 box corners, bronze, 62.
 Bronze Age (Early), tomb, 106; (Middle), tombs, 31-42.
 bull sculpture, 16.
 burin, flint, 54.

C

camel, bones of, 33.
 capitals, 3, 7; acanthus ~, 16, 64-5; basket, 65; Corinthian, 65; al Muwaqqar, 63-9; inscribed, 70-4.
 Capitolina, 87-8.
 Caracallus, 96-7, 99, 102*.
 caravanserai, Arab, 103-5.
 casket inlays, 40.

Chalcolithic necropolis, Benei Beraq, 43-57.
 chancel screens, 15.
 Christ, Entry into Jerusalem, 75-6; ~ on colt, 75.
 Christian labourers, Kh. Mafjar, 20*, 27.
 cloisters, 103.
 Colonia Ptolemais, 85-6.
 colonnettes, 8*.
 Constans, 97.
 Constantine I (the Great), 97, 100, 102*.
 Constantine II, 97, 100.
 Constantius, 97, 100.
 Coptic ornament, 10 n. 1, 15 n. 1, 18.
 cornice, ornamented, 13-15.
 cow, ivory plaque, 39*.
 crematorium, 106.
 Crispus Caesar, 100.
 Ctesiphon, Sasanian remains, 7 n. 1, 15 n. 15.
 cubits, 71*-2*.

D

daggers, bronze, 32, 34, 37*, 41-2*.
 dhira', 71*.
 Didallos, 24*.
 Diocaesarea, 96*, 100*.
 diorite vase, 37-8.
 Dome of the Rock, 1, 3, 15.
 door-jambs, ornamented, 9-11.
 drill-holes, 76.

E

Egypt, Egyptian, Crown of Upper ~, 81; alabastra, 40; ~ names on Hebrew seals, 78.
 Emmaus, castle of, 103.
 Europus, 91.
 excavations in Palestine and Trans-Jordan, 1940-4, 103-6; bibliography of ~, 107.

F

figured sculpture, 15-17.
 fish, ivory plaques, 39.
 flakes, flint, 52, 54*.
 flint tools, 47*, 52, 54; retouched, 54.
 Font-Yves flints, 54.

G

Garaba, 87.
 gateway, ornamented, 1-12.
 Gedru, 85-6.

INDEX

glass vases, 60-1.

griffin, seated, 81; winged, on seals, 77, 81; falcon-headed, 80-1.

H

Hadrian, 96, 102.

hawk, ivory plaque, 39.

heads, human, sculpture, 16.

Hebrew alphabet, 25; ~ transliteration of Egyptian names, 79.

Heliogabalus, 90*-1*.

Hisham, Caliph, 20.

Holy Sepulchre, Romanesque relief from, 75-6.

Honorius, 26-7.

horse, ivory plaques, 39*-40*.

human figure, sculpture, 16-17; ivories, 38-9.

Hyksos, 40*, 42, 59.

I

Iamnia, procurator of, 84-5.

Immanuel, 24*, 25.

inscriptions, Arabic, 70-4; Greek, 20-30, 94, 98-100*; Hebrew, 25, 77-83; hieroglyphic, 42; Latin, 84-102.

Ionic dialect in Palestine, 21, 25-6*.

Iranian architects, 74.

Isidorianus, Iulius, 90.

ivory inlays, 34, 38-40.

J

Jaffa-Gaza road, 42.

jar handle, stamped, 81.

jewellery, 32, 37.

Jewish labourers, Kh. Mafjar, 25.

el Jisr, MBA tombs, 31-42.

Julia Grata, 84-5.

K

Kefar 'Akko, 86.

Kefar Ata, Latin inscription, 86-7.

keystone, 9.

khan, 103-5.

Khirbat Duheisha, inscription, 42.

Khirbat Jidru, 86.

Khirbat el Khazna, Latin inscription, 89-91.

Khirbat Mafjar, stone sculpture, 1-19; Greek inscriptions, 20-30.

kiln, 46-7.

kilt, Egyptian, 38*, 40, 81.

Kinneret excavations, 106.

kiosk, 103.

Knights Hospitallers, 103, 105.

koinē, 20-1, 25.

L

lamelle, flint, 54.

lamps, Hellenistic and Herodian, 60*-1*.

Legio (Lajjun), 89, 96, 98, 102.

Legio IV Flavia, 92-3; ~ VI Ferrata, 89-91.

letter shapes, ancient Hebrew, 81.

lintel, ornamented, 9-11.

lions, ivory plaques, 39*, 40.

Longinus, Caius Valerius, 92.

M

mace-head, 106.

Magharat Abu Uṣba', 54.

Mamluke khan, 105.

Marcus Aurelius, 97, 98*, 102*.

mašiqin, 88 n. 6.

Mauri, numerus, 93.

Mellon, Tiberius Iulius, 84-5.

Michael, 23.

microliths, 54.

milestone inscriptions, 96-100.

miliarense, 25*-6*.

military inscriptions, Latin, 89-96.

monogrammatic signatures, 26.

mortar, basalt, 32, 37-8.

mosaic patterns, 13.

Moslem labourers, Kh. Mafjar, 20*.

mouldings, horizontal, decorated, 1-4.

Mshatta, façade, 2-3, 6 n. 1, 11, 17 n. 1.

al Muwaqqar, capitals, 63-9; inscribed water-gauge, 70-4.

N

Nabataean tomb, 'Amman, 58-62.

Nablus, Roman cemetery, 91-4.

Nahariya, Latin inscription, 85-6.

nails, 29; ~ iron, 62.

Nea Come, 85-6.

nefer-nub-ankh, 38, 40.

Nero, 85-6.

Nessana ('Auja el Hafir) papyri, 21*, 26, 30.

niches, ornamented, 8.

ny-nefer, 38.

O

ornament, architectural: acanthus (frieze), 13, 16, (leaves), 2-3, 5-6*, 8-10, 15, 64*-6*, 70, ~ (scroll), 2-3, ~ palm tree, 66; amphora, 15*; arcade, 3, 13; bands, horizontal, 5; battlements, 67; beads, circular, 5, ~ and reel, 12; bosses, 66, 68; capitals, 7; cavetto, 16; chevrons, 6; circles, 5-6; collar, ornamental, 64, ~ rope, 70, ~ scalloped, 4, 9; colonnettes, 7, 13; columns, 3; cornucopia, 4, 8*-9, 11; cyma recta, 1; dog-

INDEX

tooth, zigzag, 13; egg and tongue, 13; fillet, 1, 3, 5; fleur-de-lis, 10, 15, 66; flowers, 1, 2, 4, 6*, 9, 11, 66, lotus ~, 1-4, 8-9*, 11, 15*; grapes, 3-4, 8*, 10, 15; guilloche, 3*-6, 8-9; hooks, 5; ivy (leaf), 67, ~ (scroll), 15*; knots, circular, 5*; leaf, 9, heart-shaped, 9, imbricated, 7; lobes, heart-shaped, 2; lozenges, 1, 18; medallions, four-lobed, 5*, hexagonal, 3; palm-(tree), 4, 66, (branch), 66; palmette, 4*, 13; half~, 1*, 4, 6, 10-11, 66-7, 70, five-lobed, 9, three-lobed, 10; pomegranates, 4, 8, 9, 15*; quatrefoils, 5*-6*; rope ornament, 70, ~ ring, 10; rosettes, 3*, 5, 8*, 10, four-lobed, 6, half~, 5; running motives, 66, 68; star, six-pointed, 12; strapwork, 8-9, 12-13; torus moulding, 3; tree, 10; trefoils, 1, 5-6; vine-(leaf), 9*; (ornament), 11, (scroll), 2-3, 15*, (tendrils), 66-7, (trellis), 8; volutes, 65; wreaths, 8*, 13, 16.

ossuaries (clay), 44*-7, 54-7; boat-type, 55; house-model type, 55-6; painted, 45*, 56.

ostrich egg, shell, 32, 34, 38*, 41 n. 3.

ox, bones of, 33.

P

pagus vicinalis, 86-7.

painted sculpture, 3, 17.

Palestine, excavations in, 103-6; bibliography of, 107.

Palmyrene archers, 94; embroidery, 18.

parapet, ornamented, 13-15.

pent-roof of tomb, 105.

Pertinax, Publius Helvius, 99*, 102*.

pestle, 37.

pin, silver, 37*.

pit of kiln, 46.

plaques, bone, 106; gold, 106; ivory, 38-40.

points, flint, 54*.

Pompeius, 91.

porch, ornamented, 6-8.

posts, moulded, 13.

pottery:

forms: amphorae, 34*-5*, 38, 41; amphoriskoi, 106; bowls, 36*-8, 41, 46-7, 49-51, 59, 61*-2, 106, footed, 49-50; chalices, 49-50*; cooking pots, 49; cups, 106; dipper flasks, 35*-6*, 38; dishes, 46*; flasks, 61*, spindle ~, 105; jars, 34*-5*, 38, 45, 49*, 106; hole-mouth ~, 41-2, 49*, 51; juglets, 36*, 38, 41, 45; platters, 106; pots, 46.

details: bases: button, 34, 36*, 41, concave, 36*, convex, 35, 41, disk ~, 36*, 37, 41, flat, 35*, 41*, 46, 51, pointed, 35, 41, ring ~, 36*, 41; carinated vessels, 35-8*, 41; foot, trumpet, 35, 38; handles: double, 36*, knob, 50*, ledge, 41, 51, loop, 41, mid-rib, 35, pierced, 50, single,

36; mouth, pinched, 35; neck, collar, 34; rims, 51-3, collared, 34, 35, plain, 49; spouts, 50*.

styles: Bronze Age, Middle, 34-8; Chalcolithic, 45, 46*, 48-53; Hyksos, 59; Iron Age, 59; Nabataean, 59-62; Tell el Yahudiye, 34, 36*, 38; terra sigillata, 61.

surface decoration: burnished, 106; comb-faced, 34, 36*, 38, 41; glazed, 61; grooved, 35*; notched, 38; painted, 49, 51; punctured, 38; slip, 36, 40, 106.

technique: grits, 49*, 51*-2*; pottery kiln, 46-7; sand admixture, 49; wheel-marks, 34*, 41.

primipilus, 90.

procurator of Iamnia, 84-5.

Pt's, 78*.

Ptolemais, 85-6, 96, 100.

Q

Qairawan minbar, 10 n. 4.

Qasr el Kheir el Gharbi, 3, 11, 17 nn. 1, 2.

Qasr et Tuba, 11.

quartz, 77.

R

relief, Romanesque, Jerusalem, 75-6; guilloche ~, 4-6.

resin, lump of, 33, 38.

ring, gold, 37; swivel, silver, 37*.

Roman cemetery, Neapolis, tombstones, 91-4; roads, 85; Legio-Diocaesarea, 96, 101-2; Legio-Scythopolis, 98, 102; Ptolemais-Diocaesarea, 96.

Rufus, 95.

S

Sabastiya (Sebaste), excavations, 107; Latin inscriptions, 94-6; cohorts, 94-6; *see also* Samaria.

saint, figure of, 75-6.

Samaria, Hebrew seal from, 77-83.

Saqqara, Apa, 15 n. 1.

Sarapis, 89-90.

Sarid, milestones, 96-7, 102.

Sasanian ornament, 1, 9 n. 2, 10 and n. 1, 15 n. 3, 18*.

scaraboid, 77; crystal, 37.

scarabs, 32, 37*-8*; amethyst, 38*, 81; green jasper, 37; steatite, 38; white paste, 37.

scrapers, flint, 54*.

screen, marble, 15.

sculpture, Kh. Mafjar, 1-19.

seal, Hebrew, from Samaria, 77-83; with griffins, 80.

INDEX

Sebaste, *see* Sabastiya, Samaria.

Shabataka, 80 n. 13.

shaft tombs, 32, 44*-5, 105.

Shatta, milestones, 98-100, 102.

sheep, bones of, 33.

stamped jar handle, 81.

Stobi, 92*.

stone, objects, 37; receptacle, 45, 57.

sun-disk, on seal, 77.

T

Takrit, wooden panel, 2, 10 n. 1.

Tell Abu Sultan, 32, 42.

Tell Tumis, milestone, 100, 102.

Thaimos, 94.

Theophilos, 23, 28-9.

Tiberias, Latin inscriptions, 88-9, 91.

toggle-pin, bronze, 37*.

tombs, Chalcolithic, Benei Beraq, 43-57; MBA, el Jisr, 31-42.

Trans-Jordan, excavations, 103-6; bibliography of, 107.

Treblanus, 95-6.

turpentine, lump, 33, 38.

U

Umayyad art, 1-19.

uncials, Slavonic, 21, 29.

uraei, 37, 77.

V

Valens, Caius, Valerius, 92.

vaults, construction, 7-8, groin 103, ornament, 6-8.

Verus, Imp. Lucius Aurelius, 97-8*, 102.

voussoirs, 3, 6*.

W

Water-gauge, al Muwaqqar, 64, 70-4; ~ supply, Khan, 103-5.

weapons, 37.

window, tracery, 12-13; ornamented frame, 11-12.

witch, 24.

Y

Yazid b. 'Abd el Malik, 64, 70*, 73.

Yibna, Latin inscription, 84-5.

EPIGRAPHICAL INDEX

Arabic

امير المؤمنين 73.
بركة 73.

ذرع 70, n.3.

عبد الله بن سليم 73.

محمد رسول الله 70.

يزيد 73*.

Greek

Place names

Μαλμυρηνός, 94.
Σκυθόπολις, 98*–100.

Μιχαῖλος, 20, 23.
Ὀνόριος, 20, 26.

φαρμάκισσα, 24*.
ψάμμη, ψάμις, 26*.

Formulae

εὐπροσωπέω, 22.
ἐν ὀνόματι τοῦ θεοῦ, 21*, 22*;
~ οὐρανοῦ καὶ γῆς, 21.

Abbreviations, etc.

† 21.
ΒΩ . . . ΒΕ, 29.
ΙΝΔ⁵ (ἰκτιών), 100.

Personal names

Ἀναστάσιος, 20, 26.
Βελλεί, 94.
Διδάλλος, 20, 24*.
Θαιμός, 94.
Θεόφιλος, 20, 23, 28–9.
Ἰμμανουήλ, 20, 24.

Common nouns

ἄρτος, 25.
ἄφρος, ἀφύη, 25*.
μυλιαρήσιον, 26.
οἶνος (ῥινος), 25.
ῥάχη, ῥαχός, 27.
τυρός (τηρός), 25.

Hebrew

סאפול 77–83.

Hieroglyphic

𐩢 37

𐩢𐩠𐩢 38

𐩢𐩠𐩢 38

Latin

Religion

Deus magnus Sarapis, 89.

Emperors

Imp. Nero Caesar, 85.
Imp. Caesar Hadrianus Aug. pontif. max. trib. potestas, 96.
Imp. Caesar M. Aurelius Antoninus Aug. pont. (max.) trib. pot. XVI, cos. III, 97, 98*.
Imp. Caesar L. Aurelius Verus Aug. trib. pot. II, cos. II, 97, 98*.
Imp. Caesar M. Aur. Antoninus Pius Aug. trib. pot. XVI, p.m., imp. II cos. IV (Caracallus), 96.
Imp. Felix Aug. Parthicus max. Britannicus max. pontifex. max. trib. potest. XVI, imp. II cos. III, p.p., 99.
Imp. Caesar P. Helvius Pertinax Aug. princeps senatus pont. max. imp. tribun. pots. cos. II, p.p., 99*.
d.n. Fl. Constantinus max. p.f. in. aug. 97; — Flavius Valerius Constantinus pius fel. invict. aug., 100.

Constans nob. Caesar, 97.
Fl. Claudius Constantinus nob. Caes., 97, 100.
Constantius nob. Caes. 97.
— Fl. Iulius Constantius, nob. Caes., 100.
Fl. Val. Crispus nob. Caes., 100.
dominus noster 𐀀𐀁𐀂𐀃, 89.

Personal names

Arruntianus, 94.
T. Artanius Augurinus, 88.
Augindai, 93.
C. Cas(sius) Aquila, 87.
Iulius Isidorianus, 89.
Iulia Grata, 84.
Ti. Iulius Mellon, 84.
Kapitolina, 87.
Pompeius . . ullus, 91.
Rufus, 95.
C. Sabinus, 94.
C. Val(erius) Longinus, 92.
C. Val(erius) Valens, 92.

Military terms

Legio III Flavia, 92.

Legio VI Ferrata, 91; ~ f(idelis) c(onstans), 89.
Cohors V c. R. (Sebastenorum?), 94.
[Cohors] c. R. m. S(ebastenorum), 95.
eq(ues), 93.
miles, 92.
Numerus Maurorum, 93.
primipilus, 89; > (centurio), 91.
tesserarius, 94.

Administrative &c.

Aug(usti) l(ibertus), 84.
pagus vicinalis, 86.
procurator, 84.
vicus, 85.
vias et pontes restituit, 96, 99.

Place names

Diocaesarea, 96.
Europus, 91.
Gedru, 85.
Nea Come, 85.
Col. Ptolemais Veteranorum, 85.
Stobi, 92.

THE QUARTERLY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES
IN PALESTINE

VOL. XII

JERUSALEM
PUBLISHED FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
PALESTINE BY GEOFFREY CUMBERLEGE
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
LONDON, E.C. 4

1946

CONTENTS

I. Excavations

HARDING, LANKESTER: A NABATAEAN TOMB AT 'AMMAN	page 58
ORY, J.: A MIDDLE BRONZE AGE TOMB AT EL-JISR. „	31
ORY, J.: A CHALCOLITHIC NECROPOLIS AT BENEI BERAQ.	„ 43
EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN, 1940-2	„ 103
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN, 1942-4	„ 107

II. Sculpture

HAMILTON, R. W.: KHIRBAT MAFJAR. STONE SCULPTURE, II	„ 1
HAMILTON, R. W.: SOME EIGHTH-CENTURY CAPITALS FROM AL MUWAQQAR	„ 63
HENSCHEL-SIMON, E.: NOTE ON A ROMANESQUE RELIEF FROM JERUSALEM	„ 75

III. Inscriptions

AVI-YONAH, M.: NEWLY DISCOVERED LATIN AND GREEK INSCRIPTIONS	„ 84
BEN-DOR, I.: A HEBREW SEAL FROM SAMARIA .	„ 77
HAMILTON, R. W.: AN EIGHTH-CENTURY WATER-GAUGE AT AL MUWAQQAR	„ 70
MAYER, L. A.: NOTE ON THE INSCRIPTION FROM AL MUWAQQAR.	„ 73
SCHWABE, M.: KHIRBAT MAFJAR. GREEK INSCRIBED FRAGMENTS	„ 20

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